



Protests slam Trump's declaration as states ready lawsuit

NEW YORK (AP) — Protesters around the U.S. spent Presidents Day rallying against President Donald Trump's national emergency declaration as at least a dozen states planned a lawsuit to block Trump's latest ploy to fund his long-promised border wall.

"Trump is the national emergency!" chanted a group of hundreds lined up Monday at the White House fence while Trump was out of town in Florida.

Some held up large letters spelling out "stop power grab." In downtown Fort Worth, Texas, a small group carried signs with messages including "no wall! #FakeTrumpEmergency."



Carolyn Hursh, right, and Joey Daniel, carry a sign during a protest with others in downtown Fort Worth, Texas, Monday, Feb. 18, 2019. Associated Press

Continued on Page 3



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Trump pleads with Venezuela's military to back Guaido

By **ZEKE MILLER**

Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — President Donald Trump on Monday pleaded with Venezuela's military to support opposition leader Juan Guaido and issued a dire warning if they continue to stand with President Nicolas Maduro's government.

"You will find no safe harbor, no easy exit and no way out. You will lose everything," Trump said in a speech at Florida International University in Miami before large American and Venezuelan flags.

Trump added: "We seek a peaceful transition of power, but all options are open."

The Venezuelan military could play a decisive role in the stalemate but has largely remained loyal to Maduro.

In remarks broadcast on state television, Maduro accused the U.S. president of speaking in an "almost Nazi style" and lashed out at Trump for thinking he can deliver orders to Venezuela's military.

"Who is the commander of



In this Feb. 11, 2019, photo, President Donald Trump speaks during a rally at the El Paso County Coliseum in El Paso, Texas.

the armed forces, Donald Trump from Miami?" Maduro said. "They think they're the owners of the country." Trump said "a new day is coming in Latin America," as he sought to rally support among the largest Venezuelan community in the U.S. for Guaido. The U.S. recognizes him as the

country's rightful president and condemns Maduro's government and its socialist policies.

As the monthslong political crisis stretched on, the military has blocked the U.S. from moving tons of humanitarian aid airlifted in recent days to the Colombian border with Venezuela. The aid shipments have been meant in part to dramatize the hyperinflation and shortages of food and medicine that are gripping Venezuela. Trump said of Maduro, "He would rather see his people starve than give them aid."

Venezuela's power struggle is headed to a potentially violent showdown Saturday, when Guaido will try to run caravans of U.S. humanitarian aid across the Venezuelan border from Colombia. Maduro denies a humanitarian crisis exists, blaming the Trump administration for mounting a coup against him.

More than 2 million Venezuelans have fled the country in the last two years, most flooding across the border into Colombia, Brazil and Peru. Those left behind struggle to afford scarce supplies of food and medicine as inflation soars.

Maduro maintains support from Russia, China and Turkey, while Guaido has won recognition from dozens

of world leaders in Latin America and Europe, who are demanding that Maduro holds new elections or steps down.

So far, Maduro isn't budging. In a recent interview with The Associated Press, Maduro said Venezuela is ready to make an economic rebound once Trump removes his "infected hand" from the country that sits atop the world's largest petroleum reserves.

Trump urged the Venezuelan military to accept Guaido's offer of amnesty and refrain from violence against those opposing Maduro's government. And he praised the Venezuelan opposition, saying of the people of Venezuela, "They are turning the page on dictatorship and there will be no going back."

White House press secretary Sarah Sanders said earlier Monday that the U.S. "knows where military officials and their families have money hidden throughout the world."

South Florida is home to more than 100,000 Venezuelans and Venezuelan-Americans, the largest concentration in the country. Speaking in the presidential battleground state, Trump also sought to draw a contrast with the policies of progressive Democrats,

which he brands as "socialist," as he gears up for re-election.

Trump said that "socialism has so completely ravaged" Venezuela "that even the world's largest reserves of oil are not enough to keep the lights on." He added: "This will never happen to us."

"Socialism promises prosperity, but it delivers poverty," he said.

Trump was introduced by first lady Melania Trump and joined by Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis and Florida Sens. Marco Rubio and Rick Scott, who have all been outspoken in their criticism of Maduro's government. Trump also spoke of the socialist governments in Cuba and Nicaragua, which have large expatriate communities in the Miami area.

"Socialism is dying and liberty, prosperity and democracy are being reborn" throughout the hemisphere, Trump said, expressing hope that soon, "This will become the first free hemisphere in all of human history."

In Cuba, the foreign minister, Bruno Rodriguez, tweeted that he considered "offensive" Trump's speech and that it "confirms the threat of military aggression against Venezuela." He added, "Humanitarian aid is a pretext for a war."

Shortly after Trump ended his speech, he tweeted, "I ask every member of the Maduro regime: End this nightmare of poverty, hunger and death. LET YOUR PEOPLE GO. Set your country free! Now is the time for all Venezuelan Patriots to act together, as one united people. Nothing could be better for the future of Venezuela!" Guaido addressed the crowd in a pre-recorded video released by the White House and thanked Trump and the state of Florida for their support. "Now there is a debate between the democracy and dictatorship — one between life and death," Guaido said in Spanish. "Today this fight is existential." □

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Protests slam Trump's declaration as states ready lawsuit

Continued from Front

California and 15 other states, including Colorado, Nevada and New Mexico, filed a lawsuit Monday against President Donald Trump's emergency declaration to fund a wall on the U.S.-Mexico border. California Attorney General Xavier Becerra released a statement Monday saying the suit alleges the Trump administration's action violates the Constitution.

Gov. Jared Polis and Attorney General Phil Weiser, both Democrats, said in a statement that the wall project could divert tens of millions of dollars from military construction projects in Colorado.

Rep. Maxine Waters, D-Los Angeles, decried the president's actions at a peaceful rally attended by a few hundred people outside Los Angeles City Hall. Police kept the crowd separate from a handful of pro-Trump counter-protesters who waved flags and wore red "Make America Great Again" hats.

A large crowd also gathered outside the Federal Building in San Francisco.

One demonstrator carried a sign that read: "Step 1: Declare a national emergency. Step 2: Play golf. Step 3: Watch SNL."

A crowd of more than 100 protesters gathered in frigid weather at the state Capitol in Denver roared with approval when Weiser told them his office was joining the multistate lawsuit, Denverite reported.

"There is zero real-world basis for the emergency declaration, and there will be no wall," New Mexico Gov. Lujan Grisham, a Democrat, said in a statement.

Organized by the liberal group MoveOn and others, Monday's demonstrations took the occasion of the Presidents Day holiday to assail Trump's proclamation as undemocratic and anti-immigrant.

Kelly Quirk, of the progressive group Soma Action, told a gathering of dozens in Newark, New Jersey, that "democracy demands" saying "no more" to Trump. "There are plenty of real emergencies to invest our tax dollars in," said Quirk.

In New York City, hundreds of people at a Manhattan park chanted "No hate, no



Cathy Clark holds a sign and yells during a protest in downtown Fort Worth, Texas, Monday, Feb. 18, 2019. People gathered on the Presidents Day holiday to protest President Donald Trump's recent national emergency declaration.

Associated Press

fear, immigrants are welcome here" as several of them held up letters spelling out, "IMPEACH."

There were some counter-protesters, including in Washington, where there was a brief scuffle in the crowd.

Trump's declaration Friday shifts billions of dollars from

military construction to the border. The move came after Congress didn't approve as much as Trump wanted for the wall, which the Republican considers a national security necessity. His emergency proclamation calls the border "a major entry point for criminals, gang members, and illicit

narcotics."

Trump's critics have argued he undercut his own rationale for the emergency declaration by saying he "didn't need to do this" but wanted to get the wall built faster than he otherwise could. In announcing the move, he said he anticipated the legal challenges. □

New owners plan to move historic riverboat to Ohio winery



In this Nov. 29, 2011, file photo, the Showboat Majestic is docked at the Public Landing in Cincinnati as fog rolls off the Ohio River.

Associated Press

CINCINNATI (AP) — The new owners of Cincinnati's historic Showboat Majestic plan to continue using the double-decker riverboat as an entertainment venue on the Ohio River.

Adams County real estate agent Joe Brumley and his wife, Cortnee, bought the country's last floating theater for around \$110,000 this month, WCPO-TV reported. Cincinnati had put it up for auction, citing high maintenance costs. The boat, built in 1923 in

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Cincinnati bought it from Indiana University in 1967, and it sat for years at the city's Public Landing before it was sold.

The Brumleys plan to move the boat to Moyer Winery in Manchester, a town on the Ohio River that's about 55 miles (89 kilometers) southeast of Cincinnati.

Joe Brumley said they hope to create a new tourist attraction there us-

ing the Majestic and a previously purchased stern-wheeler, the CT McFarland, which they bought to give cruises around the nearby Twin Islands.

"What better romance with the river than to offer fine wine, great food and have live performances and events aboard a national landmark?" he said. "Then get on our ship, go over to the Twin Islands and walk the sandy beaches on Ohio's best-kept secret." □

Border wall a complex issue for 2020 prospect Beto O'Rourke



In this Nov. 6, 2018, file photo, U.S. Rep. Beto O'Rourke, the 2018 Democratic Candidate for U.S. Senate in Texas, makes his concession speech at his election night party in El Paso, Texas.

By **WILL WEISSERT**
Associated Press

EL PASO, Texas (AP)—When President Donald Trump visited Beto O'Rourke's hometown to argue that walling

off the southern border would make the U.S. safer, the former Democratic congressman and possible 2020 presidential hopeful was ready.

As the president filled an El Paso arena with supporters, O'Rourke helped lead thousands of his own on a protest march past the barrier of barbed-wire topped fencing and towering metal slats that separates El Paso from Ciudad Juarez, Mexico.

O'Rourke clearly hopes to make his personal experience with the border a strength if he runs for president — and the battle over billions of dollars in new fortifications may well shape the 2020 campaign.

But O'Rourke's history with the barriers that have lined the Rio Grande since he was a child actually could be a bit of vulnerability, too.

As the 2020 campaign is

joined, other top Democrats can oppose Trump's call for more and larger walls as a straightforward wedge issue — something they say shows anti-immigrant feeling, intolerance and even racism.

But O'Rourke's record on border walls is complicated. In March, he supported a spending package that other leading Democratic contenders opposed and included \$1.6 billion for border wall construction in Texas' Rio Grande Valley and elsewhere. Buried in that was \$445 million for repairs of existing fencing elsewhere — including El Paso. O'Rourke later explained the vote as a compromise to win approval of another proposal he backed, expanding access to mental health care for military veterans who had received other-than-honorable discharges. But his action attracted criticism from people who know the border best. Scott Nicol, co-chairman of the Sierra Club's Borderlands team, called it "very disappointing."

"The things that he has said have been dead on," Nicol said. "The next step becomes what do you do."

O'Rourke's nuanced position on border barriers, sometimes willing to use them as a bargaining chip, could be politically awkward in a national campaign but it's shared in El Paso. Here, many people accept dozens of miles of existing walls as a fact of life, objecting mostly to structures so intrusive they suggest a war zone.

"People in El Paso live with the border and the ambiguities and contradictions of the border," said Josiah Heyman, director of the University of Texas at El Paso's Center for Inter-

american and Border Studies.







In an interview Thursday night on MSNBC, O'Rourke said he would "absolutely" tear down El Paso's existing walls and that he believed a majority of residents would back doing so. That somewhat contradicts his past statements about opposing entirely open borders, but O'Rourke has previously backed having them porous enough to promote trade and immigrant culture. In an interview in 2006, he decried President George W. Bush's proposal for bolstering the existing walls with more surveillance technology.

Bush's barrier "didn't seem like a meaningful suggestion at all, but maybe that's because we already have it and it doesn't seem to be working," he said.

City Council member Peter Svarzbein said El Paso's character isn't based on keeping people out, but rather on tens of thousands who legally cross every day for work, school, shopping or to see bi-national relatives.

In the end, O'Rourke "may have some firsthand knowledge, but I don't know if it's a winning argument," said Democratic political consultant James Aldrete, who helped conduct Hispanic outreach for Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton. El Paso had only limited border security before 1978 when, facing an influx of immigrants looking for work in the U.S., Congress approved chain-link fencing later dubbed the "Tortilla Curtain."

A 1986 federal law granting legal status to about 2 million Mexicans in the U.S. made the prospect of heading north even more attractive. □

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Iowa governor opts not to appeal fetal heartbeat law ruling

By DAVID PITT

Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) —

Iowa's governor said Monday she decided against appealing a judge's ruling last month that struck down Iowa's "fetal heartbeat" abortion law, which would have been the most restrictive anti-abortion law in the nation. Gov. Kim Reynolds called it an extremely difficult decision but the right one for the state.

"Rather than be distracted by a losing legal battle, now is the time to renew our focus on changing hearts and minds and to seek other ways to advance the cause of protecting the unborn in Iowa and around the nation," said Reynolds, a Republican who signed the bill last



In this Jan. 18, 2018, file photo, Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds delivers her inaugural address in Des Moines, Iowa.

Associated Press

May after a GOP-run Legislature passed it.

Some supporters hoped it would lead to a federal appeal ending with a more conservative leaning U.S.

Supreme Court overturning the 1973 Roe v. Wade ruling that legalized abortion nationally. However, Planned Parenthood of the Heartland and the American

Civil Liberties Union of Iowa challenged the law on state constitutional grounds only foreclosing a federal appeal. Any appeal would have ended with the Iowa Supreme Court which last June struck down an earlier Iowa law that required a 72-hour waiting period for women seeking an abortion.

The court said in that ruling the state constitution guarantees women freedom to make their own health decisions including an abortion, noting that "autonomy and dominion over one's body go to the very heart of what it means to be free." ACLU of Iowa Executive Director Mark Stringer said his organization is "proud of a Constitution that affirms a women's fundamental

right, in consultation with her doctor and loved ones, to make one of the most difficult, personal decisions she'll ever make.

Government has no place in that."

Judge Michael Huppert said last month the fetal heartbeat bill signed last May by Reynolds violated due process and equal protection provisions of the Iowa Constitution based on previous Iowa Supreme Court rulings.

The law would have banned an abortion once a fetal heartbeat was detected, as early as six weeks into pregnancy.

Reynolds said she's proud "to lead the most pro-life state in the country and remain firm in my belief that all human life is precious." □



In this Sept. 7, 2018, file photo, then WNBA president Lisa Borders addresses media members before Game 1 of the WNBA basketball finals between the Seattle Storm and the Washington Mystics in Seattle.

Associated Press

Lisa Borders steps down as head of Time's Up organization

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Lisa Borders says she has resigned as president and CEO of Time's Up, the gender equality initiative formed last year in response to sexual misconduct allegations in Hollywood.

Borders says in statement Monday that she is stepping aside "with deep regret" due to family issues. She didn't elaborate.

Chief Operating Officer Rebecca Goldman will serve as interim CEO while the organization conducts an executive search.

Borders, former president of the WNBA, was named head of Time's Up last year.

The organization was formed in January 2018 in response to sexual misconduct allegations leveled against powerful men in the entertainment industry including Harvey Weinstein and Kevin Spacey. □

School threat system fields thousands of tips in first month

By **MARK SCOLFORO**

Associated Press

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) —

A threat reporting system now required for all Pennsylvania schools fielded more than 4,900 tips in its first month, about a third of them considered serious enough to pass along to local police and school officials.

The goal of the Safe 2 Say Something program, which funnels tips to an around-the-clock call center at the attorney general's headquarters in Harrisburg, is to respond to troubling behavior, unsafe school situations and anything else tipsters deems appropriate to report.

The program passed the Legislature with near unanimity last year, mandating it encompass all K-12 students in Pennsylvania, including charter, private and vocational-technical schools. Sen. Scott Martin, a prime backer of the new law, has been encouraged by the volume of tips so far. "I think, in itself, that justifies why we need to do this and why it's important," said Martin, R-Lancaster.

The reports come in through phone calls, by email and



In this Feb. 19, 2018, file photo Sara Smith, left, and her daughter Karina Smith visit a makeshift memorial outside the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, where 17 students and faculty were killed in a mass shooting in Parkland, Fla.

via an app. Callers are assured of anonymity. In the first month, nearly 1,400 contacts were deemed "life safety" tips, considered important enough to notify schools and the local 911 center. Attorney General Josh Shapiro told lawmakers at a hearing last week those tips have included suicide threats and situations where students may have

hurt others without intervention. Other common subjects of calls include harassment, bullying and mental health issues, Shapiro's office said.

There have been more than 415 incidents of gunfire on U.S. school grounds since 2013, according to Every Town for Gun Safety, a nonprofit aimed at reducing domestic gun violence. Last year's carnage at

Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, that left 17 dead surpassed the 1999 Columbine High School massacre as the deadliest high school shooting in U.S. history.

The program, which is in part a response to the frequency of mass shootings in America, is mandated in four other states and about a dozen others are at least considering starting

their own version, according to Tim Makris, managing director of Sandy Hook Promise. The nonprofit has provided technical help, support for training and equipment to help get Pennsylvania's program up and running.

Pennsylvania is the first state to do a comprehensive launch of the program, training schools, students, 911 operators and the team that fields calls at the attorney general's office, Makris said.

The attorney general's office says 3,800 schools are already involved. About 85 percent of all K-12 schools are currently participating, including nearly all of the state's 500 public school districts.

Each district is supposed to set up a group of three to five people who can respond to the tips, the majority coming in through the app and online, Makris said. The goal is "to teach kids and the adults around them how to identify and intervene around individuals who may be at risk of hurting themselves or others through words, through actions, through weapons," Makris said. □

Illinois man known for white crosses makes 5 for hometown

AURORA, Ill. (AP) — An Illinois man who has delivered more than 26,000 white crosses to sites around the U.S., largely to remember victims of gun violence,

now finds himself doing the same in his hometown.

"I just didn't see it coming," said Greg Zanis, who made crosses for the five victims of the shooting Friday in

Aurora, Illinois, where an employee about to lose his job opened fire inside the Henry Pratt Co. warehouse. Zanis has set up crosses after the mass shootings in Las Vegas and after the school shootings at Columbine, Sandy Hook and in Orlando.

The total was 26,274 in the last 22 years and as of Saturday the number is now 26,379. Last year, Zanis said, he made 5,000 crosses and he has been working on a batch of crosses for victims of Chicago gun violence that he was to deliver to a Sunday vigil.

Zanis uses "the best lumber I can find" and uses two coats of white paint, a large red heart and the victim's name and a serial number.

Zanis said he heard squad



Crosses are placed for the victims of a mass shooting Sunday, Feb. 17, 2019, in Aurora, Ill., near Henry Pratt Co. manufacturing company where several were killed on Friday.

Associated Press

cars Friday afternoon because he lives near the police station and shortly after heard about the active shooter situation. Zanis started making crosses when he heard people had died. He placed five crosses outside the Aurora

warehouse Saturday. Zanis usually places the crosses and leaves, but now because it's his hometown he says he will attend all the vigils and funerals. "I feel like I am carrying the weight of the whole city on my shoulders," he said. □

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Sailor in iconic V-J Day Times Square kiss photo dies at 95

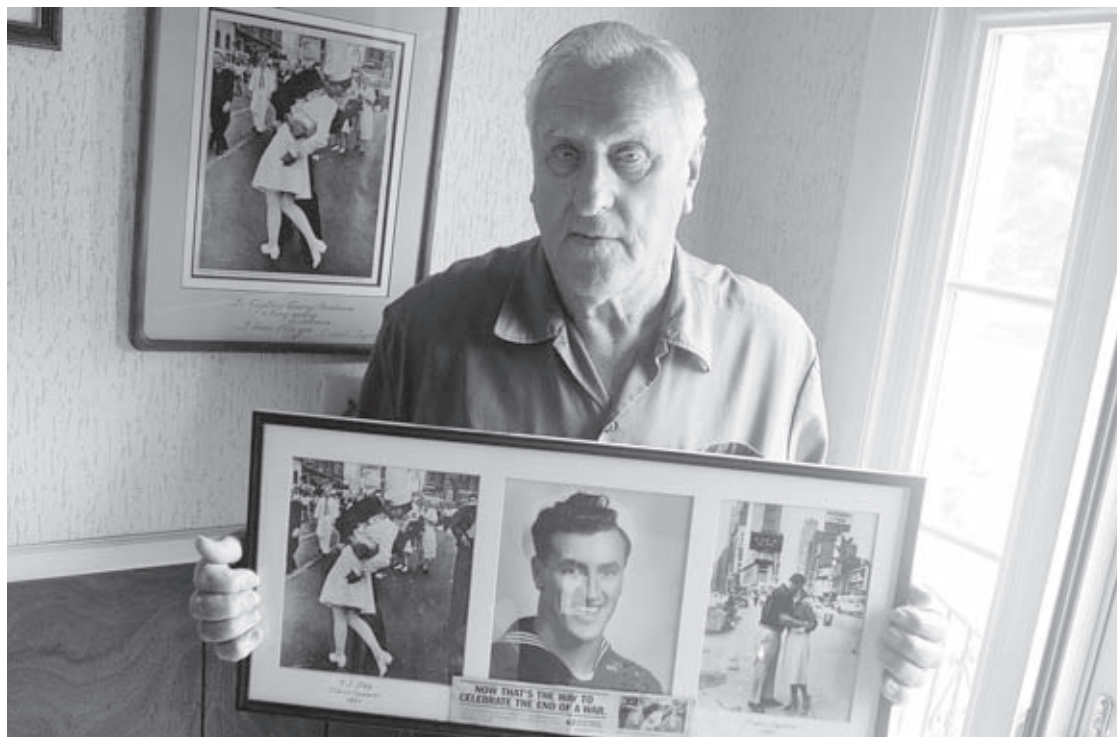
By The Associated Press
PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP) —

The ecstatic sailor shown kissing a woman in Times Square celebrating the end of World War II died Sunday. George Mendonsa was 95.

Mendonsa fell and had a seizure at the assisted living facility in Middletown, Rhode Island, where he lived with his wife of 70 years, his daughter, Sharon Molleur, told The Providence Journal.

Mendonsa was shown kissing Greta Zimmer Friedman, a dental assistant in a nurse's uniform, on Aug. 14, 1945 — known as V-J Day, the day Japan surrendered to the United States. People spilled into the New York City streets to celebrate the news. Mendonsa planted a kiss on Friedman, whom he had never met.

An iconic photo of the kiss by Alfred Eisenstaedt was first published in Life magazine and is called "V-J Day



In this July 2, 2009, photo George Mendonsa poses for a photo in Middletown, R.I., holding a copy of the famous Alfred Eisenstaedt photo of Mendonsa kissing a woman in a nurse's uniform in Times Square on Aug. 14, 1945, while celebrating the end of World War II, left. Mendonsa died Sunday, Feb. 17, 2019, he was 95.

in Times Square," but is known to most as "The Kiss." It became one of the most famous photographs of the 20th century. Another

photographer, Victor Jorgensen, who was in the Navy, also captured the moment in a similar photo. The moment has been

shared widely and is often seen on posters. Several people later claimed to be the kissing couple, and it was years

Associated Press

before Mendonsa and Friedman were confirmed to be the couple.

Mendonsa served on a destroyer during the war and was on leave when the end of the war was announced. When he was honored at the Rhode Island State House in 2015, Mendonsa spoke about the kiss. He said Friedman reminded him of nurses on a hospital ship that he saw care for wounded sailors.

"I saw what those nurses did that day and now back in Times Square the war ends, a few drinks, so I grabbed the nurse," Mendonsa said, WPRI-TV reported.

Friedman said in a 2005 interview with the Veterans History Project that it wasn't her choice to be kissed.

"The guy just came over and kissed or grabbed," she told the Library of Congress. She added, "It was just somebody really celebrating. But it wasn't a romantic event." □

New York City aims to stop hairstyle discrimination

NEW YORK (AP) — New York City doesn't want people to have their hairstyles held against them, and it unveiled novel guidelines Monday against hairdo discrimination.

The new legal guidance says the city's existing human rights law protects New Yorkers' right to "maintain natural hair or hairstyles that are closely associated with their racial, ethnic or cultural identities."

"Hair is a part of you. Race discrimination based on hair is illegal in NYC," Hu-

man Rights Commission Chairwoman Carmelyn P. Malalis tweeted Monday after releasing the guidelines, first reported by The New York Times. They're believed to be the first such measures nationwide, the newspaper said.

In effect, the guidance enables people to seek fines and other remedies if they've been harassed or punished in workplaces, schools or public spaces because of their hair texture or style. Hair nets, ties and the like can still be re-

quired for health and safety reasons.

Around the country, some schools have drawn attention for banning dreadlocks, do-rags, Afros and other ways of wearing hair. In December, there was an outcry after a white referee told a black New Jersey high school wrestler to cut his dreadlocks right before a match or forfeit it. The teen had the haircut, but many criticized the demand, including the state's governor and an Olympic wrestler. □



Brex-split: 7 lawmakers quit Labour over EU, anti-Semitism

By JILL LAWLESS

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Seven British lawmakers quit the main opposition Labour Party on Monday over its approach to Brexit and anti-Semitism — the biggest shake-up in years for one of Britain's major political parties.

The announcement ripped open a long-simmering rift between socialists and centrists in the party, which sees itself as the representative of Britain's working class. It's also the latest fallout from Britain's decision to leave the European Union, which has split both of the country's two main parties — Conservatives and Labour — into pro-Brexit and pro-EU camps.

Many Labour lawmakers have been unhappy with the party's direction under leader Jeremy Corbyn, a veteran socialist who took charge in 2015 with strong grass-roots backing. They accuse Corbyn of mounting a weak opposition to Conservative Prime Minister Theresa May's plans for leaving the EU, and of failing to stamp out a vein of anti-Semitism in the party.

Those leaving Labour have between nine and 27 years' experience in Parliament and represent constituencies across England but still



Luciana Berger speaks during a press conference to announce the new political party, The Independent Group, in London, Monday, Feb. 18, 2019.

make up only a small fraction of Labour's 256 lawmakers, or of the 650 total members of Parliament. But this is the biggest split in the Labour Party since four senior members quit in 1981 to form the Social Democratic Party.

Luciana Berger, one of those who quit Monday, said Labour had become "institutionally anti-Semitic." "I am leaving behind a culture of bullying, bigotry and intimidation," the 37-year-old politician said at a news conference alongside six

colleagues.

Labour leaders have admitted that Berger, who is Jewish and pregnant, has been bullied by some members of her local party in northwest England.

Labour has been riven by allegations that the party has become hostile to Jews under Corbyn, a longtime supporter of the Palestinians. Corbyn's supporters accuse political opponents and right-wing media of misrepresenting his views.

There have long been signs that British voters' 2016 de-

cision to leave the EU could spark a major overhaul of British politics. May's own Conservatives are in the throes of a civil war between the party's pro-Brexit and pro-EU wings. Labour is also split.

Many Labour members oppose Brexit — which is scheduled to take place in less than six weeks, on March 29 — and want the party to fight to hold a new national referendum that could keep Britain in the 28-nation bloc.

But Corbyn, who spent

decades criticizing the EU before becoming a lukewarm convert to the "remain" cause in the 2016 referendum, is reluctant to do anything that could be seen as defying voters' decision to leave.

"I am furious that the leadership is complicit in facilitating Brexit, which will cause great economic, social and political damage to our country," said Mike Gapes, one of the departing lawmakers.

Gapes said he had been a Labour Party member for half a century and "have always considered myself Labour to my core."

The seven members of Parliament said they will continue to sit in the House of Commons as the newly formed Independent Group.

Corbyn said he was "disappointed that these MPs have felt unable to continue to work together for the Labour policies that inspired millions at the last election and saw us increase our vote by the largest share since 1945."

The Labour lawmakers who quit in 1981 eventually became today's Liberal Democrats, a centrist party that has failed to topple the dominance of the two bigger parties. □

Yemeni combatants agree on first stage of Hodeida pullback

By SAMY MAGDY

Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Yemen's government and the Houthis rebels have agreed on the first stage of a mutual pull-out of forces from the port city of Hodeida, a key entry point for humanitarian aid, the United Nations said.

A U.N. statement late Sunday said the agreement came after two days of meetings in Hodeida. The warring parties agreed to a cease-fire in the city and a prisoner exchange during talks held in Sweden in December, but the implementation of both has been stalled.

The statement said both sides "made important progress on planning for



In this Tuesday, Feb. 5, 2019 file photo, United Nations Special Envoy to Yemen Martin Griffiths, center, and President of the International Committee of the Red Cross Peter Maurer, participate in a new round of talks by Yemen's warring parties in Amman, Jordan.

Associated Press

the redeployment of forces as envisaged in the Hodei-

da agreement." Yemen's government has

been battling the rebels since 2014, when the Houthis swept down from the north and seized the capital, Sanaa.

A Saudi-led coalition entered the war on the side of the government in March 2015.

The stalemated conflict has killed tens of thousands of people and raised fears of famine.

"It's encouraging news that this has happened, as people had been losing faith in the process, causing fears that we'd soon see a return to combat in and around Hodeida," said Peter Salisbury, a senior analyst at the Brussels-based International Crisis Group.

He said the parties now

need to implement the agreement, warning that "there is plenty of room for them to play games here, so we shouldn't get overexcited."

British Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt hailed their progress on Monday, tweeting that the agreement must be "swiftly finalized & implemented" and urging progress on the prisoner release. Under the U.N.-brokered agreement reached in December, both sides agreed on the redeployment of forces out of Hodeida, which is currently controlled by the Houthis. Local authorities and police would run the city and its three ports under U.N. supervision. □



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Sex abuse survivors to meet with Vatican summit organizers

By NICOLE WINFIELD
Associated Press

VATICAN CITY (AP) — The organizers of Pope Francis' summit on preventing clergy sex abuse will meet this week with a dozen abuse victims who have descended on Rome to protest the Catholic Church's response to the crisis and demand an end to decades of cover-up by church leaders, officials said Monday.

These abuse survivors will not be addressing the summit of church leaders itself. Rather, they will meet Wednesday with the four-member organizing committee to convey their complaints.

The larger summit of some 190 presidents of bishops' conferences from around the world, plus key Vatican officials, begins Thursday.

At a press conference Monday, organizers called the summit a "turning point" in



Pope Francis delivers his blessing during the Angelus noon prayer in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican, Sunday, Feb. 17, 2019.
Associated Press

the church's approach to clergy sex abuse. The Catholic Church has long been criticized for its failure to hold bishops accountable when they covered up for priests who raped and molested children.

They said the summit would focus on three key aspects of dealing with the crisis: making bishops aware of their own responsibilities

to protect their flocks, the consequences of shirking those responsibilities, and the need for transparency. Archbishop Charles Scicluna, the Vatican's leading sex crimes investigator and an organizer of the meeting, said transparency was key, since the church's knee-jerk response of denial and silence in the past had only exacerbated

the problem. "Whether it's criminal or malicious complicity and a code of silence, or whether it's denial or trauma in its very primitive state, we need to get away from that," he told reporters. "We have to face the facts."

Chilean abuse victim Juan Carlos Cruz, who is coordinating the survivor meeting, told

The Associated Press he hopes for a "constructive and open dialogue" and for summit members to convey survivors' demand that bishops stop pleading ignorance about abuse.

"Raping a child or a vulnerable person and abusing them has been wrong since the 1st century, the Middle Ages, and now," he said.

Francis called the summit in September after he himself discredited Cruz and other Chilean victims of a notorious predator priest.

Francis was subsequently implicated in the cover-up of Theodore McCarrick, the onetime powerful American cardinal who just last week was defrocked for sexually abusing minors as well as adults.

Francis has urged participants to meet with abuse victims before they came to Rome, to both familiarize themselves with victims' pain and trauma and debunk the widely held idea that clergy sex abuse only happens in some parts of the world.

Survivors will be represented at the summit itself, but only in a few key moments of prayer.

Summit moderator the Rev. Federico Lombardi said he would gladly receive any written messages from other survivors, expressing an openness to hear from a broad cross-section of victims. □

Australia blames 'state actor' for hacking political parties



In this image made from video, Australia's Prime Minister Scott Morrison speaks in Parliament, Monday, Feb. 18, 2019, in Canberra, Australia.

Associated Press

By ROD MCGUIRK
Associated Press

CANBERRA, Australia (AP) — A "sophisticated state actor" was behind a cyberattack on the Australian Parliament's computing network that also affected the network used by major political parties, the prime minister said Monday.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison did not identify the state behind what he described as a "malicious intrusion" on Feb. 8. A joint statement from House of Representatives Speaker Tony Smith and Senate President Scott Ryan said at the time that

there was no evidence that data had been accessed in the breach. But lawmakers were advised to change passwords.

Morrison revealed Monday that the computer networks used by the government parties — the Liberal Party and the Nationals — as well as the opposition Labor Party had also been affected. Australia's security agencies were securing those systems and protecting users, he said. "Our cyber experts believe that a sophisticated state actor is responsible for this malicious activity," Morrison

told reporters. "Let me be clear, though — there is no evidence of any electoral interference. We have put in place a number of measures to ensure the integrity of our electoral system," he added. The Australian Cyber Security Center, the government's main cyber security agency, has briefed federal and state election authorities, Morrison said.

New South Wales, Australia's most populous state, will hold elections on March 23. A federal election will be held on a date to be set in May. □

Saudi official fires back after Iran blames attack on Riyadh

By **MUNIR AHMED**

Associated Press

ISLAMABAD (AP) — A senior Saudi diplomat on Monday fired back after Iran initially blamed the kingdom for an attack last week that killed 27 members of Iran's elite Revolutionary Guard.

Adel al-Jubeir, the minister of state for foreign affairs, called Iran a "chief sponsor of terrorism," saying its allegations sought to divert the attention of the Iranian people from the country's own troubles.

"Saudi Arabia has been the victim of terrorism," he added, saying the kingdom would continue to be "unmerciful" in going after terrorists and those who finance and condone them. The comments came as Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman was concluding a two-day visit to Pakistan. Al-Jubeir, the kingdom's former foreign minister, is part of the prince's entourage.

Iranian officials had at first said that Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates were behind Wednesday's bombing near the Pakistani border, but later said the attack was planned from "inside Pakistan." The militant



In this photo released by the Press Information Department, Pakistani President Arif Alvi, right, meets with visiting Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman at presidential palace in Islamabad, Pakistan, Monday, Feb. 18, 2019.

Associated Press

Sunni group Jaish al-Adl, which claimed responsibility, is believed to operate from havens in Pakistan. Pakistan has close ties to Saudi Arabia, which views Iran as a regional threat, and often balances be-

tween Riyadh and Tehran. Pakistan's Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi told his Iranian counterpart on Sunday that Islamabad would fully cooperate in the investigation into the attack on the Revolution-

ary Guard. Pakistan has also pledged to act if Tehran shares evidence against those linked to the attack.

On Monday, three Pakistani security officials said a search operation was

underway in remote southwestern regions bordering Iran in an effort to arrest suspects linked to attacks in Pakistan and Iran. They said the security forces were searching areas where Tehran believed insurgents responsible for last week's attack might be hiding.

Gen. Mohammad Hossein Bagheri, the head of Iran's armed forces, said the Pakistani army had launched an operation near the border. He urged Pakistan to confront armed groups or "let Iranian forces enter the battlefield."

On Sunday, Saudi Arabia signed agreements worth \$20 billion to help Pakistan overcome its financial crisis. Pakistan voiced support for the prince during the international outcry after the killing of Washington Post columnist Jamal Khashoggi by Saudi agents in October. The kingdom has long provided aid to Pakistan, and signed an agreement for a \$6 billion assistance package after Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan attended an investment conference that month that saw a wave of cancellations linked to the Khashoggi killing. □

Besieged IS militants refuse to surrender, ask for an exit

By **SARAH EL DEEB**

Associated Press

AL-OMAR OIL FIELD BASE, Syria (AP) — More than 300 Islamic State militants surrounded in a tiny area in eastern Syria are refusing to surrender to U.S.-backed forces and are trying to negotiate an exit, Syrian activists and a person close to the negotiations said Monday.

The extremists are bottled up in the village of Baghouz, where they are hiding among hundreds of civilians and preventing them from leaving. The stalling tactics are likely to further delay a declaration of the end of the IS group's self-proclaimed caliphate, which the U.S.-backed Syrian Democratic Forces were hoping to make last week.

A person familiar with the



U.S.-backed Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) fighters eat in a building as the fight against Islamic State militants continues in the village of Baghouz, Syria, Sunday, Feb. 17, 2019.

Associated Press

negotiations said the militants are asking for a corridor to the rebel-held northwestern province of Idlib, and demand that they be allowed to leave along with the evacuated civilians. He spoke on condition of anonymity because he was

not authorized to speak about the talks, which he described as taking place indirectly.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, an activist group that monitors the civil war in Syria, said another request

by IS to be evacuated to neighboring Iraq was also rejected. IS released 10 SDF fighters it had been holding on Sunday, but it was not clear what, if anything, the extremists would get in return, the Observatory said. The speck of land in Syria's remote eastern desert, near the border with Iraq, is all that remains of a self-styled caliphate that once sprawled across a third of both countries and included several major towns and cities.

In that tiny patch on the banks of the Euphrates River, the militants are holed up in what SDF officials describe as a small tented village atop a network of tunnels and caves.

There are civilians inside as well, possibly including hostages.

The SDF and the U.S.-led

coalition have been fighting IS in the surrounding region since September. In recent years, they and other forces have steadily driven IS from nearly all the territory it once controlled, in battles that have killed tens of thousands of people and left entire towns and neighborhoods in ruins. The DeirEzzor 24, an activist collective in eastern Syria, said several trucks loaded with food entered IS-held areas in Baghouz on Monday. It also reported the release of the SDF fighters, without saying whether there was a quid pro quo. DeirEzzor 24 said the truce reached last week has been extended for five more days as of Sunday. It added that in return several trucks loaded with food entered the IS-held area on Sunday. □



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China's leaders want more babies, but local officials resist

By CHRISTOPHER BODEEN
Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — Facing a future demographic crisis and aging society, China's leaders are desperately seeking to persuade couples to have more children. But bureaucrats don't seem to have gotten the message, fining a couple in a recent widely publicized case for having a third child against the strict letter of the law.

The move has sparked public outrage as people vent their anger at population control officials who are hungry for revenue and have long persecuted couples for violating the now-scrapped "one-child policy."

"The country is doing all it can to encourage child-birth but the local governments need money, so we end with this sort of madness," a columnist and political commentator who writes under the name Lian-peng said on China's Weibo microblogging service. "The low birthrate has everyone on edge, yet the local governments care only about collecting fees," journalist Jin Wei wrote on her verified Weibo account. "I don't know of any other nation that pulls its people in different directions like this."

The Wangs, the couple at the heart of the recent controversy, were ordered by local authorities in Shandong province to pay a fine known as a "social maintenance fee" of 64,626 yuan (\$9,500) immediately after the birth of their third child in January 2017. After various deadlines came and went, the family's entire bank savings of 22,957 yuan (\$3,400) were frozen last month, with the balance still due.

"I just don't know what I'm



In this Oct. 2, 2018, photo, nurses take care of newborn infants in a hospital in Shexian in northern China's Hebei province.

going to do," the husband, Wang Baohua, was quoted as saying by local media last week.

The situation the couple faces has its roots in decades-old fears that China's population would outstrip its resources, along with the ruling Communist Party's all-consuming fervor to control people's most personal decisions.

Family planning regulations emerged in the 1970s, and in 1980 the notorious "one-child policy" came into effect, mandating often brutal punishments for violators ranging from forced abortions and sterilizations to fines and workplace demotions.

Fast-forward 35 years, and a radical change of course was ordered after leaders realized an aging population and declining workforce threatened to hamstring the country's future development. In 2016, the one-child policy was officially replaced with a two-child policy and Chinese couples were urged to go

forth and multiply — within limits.

But the bump in the birth-rate was fleeting. Last month, the National Bureau of Statistics said the number of new births in 2018 fell to 15.23 million in a total population of 1.395 billion — a growth rate of .381 percent and the lowest increase since 1961, resulting in fully 2 million fewer births than in 2017.

China's population is estimated to peak at 1.442 billion in 2029 and then gradually decline, potentially fulfilling the conventional wisdom that China will grow old before it grows rich.

Cases such as the Wangs' remain common, despite a growing recognition of the seriousness of the population crisis, said Yi Fuxian, a professor at the University of Wisconsin Madison and a leading critic of Chinese population policies.

Bureaucratic inertia and the desire of local officials to chase revenue contribute to the problem, Yi said.

China, with an estimated fertility rate of 1.02 in 2018, now finds itself in the same category as other predominantly Chinese societies in Taiwan, Hong Kong, Macao and Singapore, Yi said. Average fertility rates in those regions and countries from 2005 to 2017 were 1.10, 1.12, 1.08 and 1.23 respectively.

Yet the one-child policy has weighed down China with the additional burden of distorted attitudes toward the family, society and childbearing, where one or no children have become the norm, Yi said.

With economic growth the primary guarantor of continued Communist Party rule, the leadership is concerned. The sputtering economy grew at 6.6 percent last year, its slowest pace in three decades, fueling fears over the long-term trend of a shrinking pool of workers paying the pensions and health care costs for a ballooning population of retirees.

Despite that, there remains

considerable resistance to lifting controls entirely, something that might give people greater autonomy. Local bureaucrats in the Wang case said they were just following the law, citing the exact articles and passages. They also have a strong stake in maintaining the rules that justify their jobs and authority.

State media reports say fees meant to compensate for the resources extra children consume actually constitute a large percentage of local governments' discretionary funding — 15-30 percent — and can be used for a range of purposes from salaries to travel expenses.

Thus far, the National Health Commission has rejected calls to eliminate legal references to family planning, citing among other reasons article 25 of China's Constitution, which says, "The state promotes family planning so that population growth may fit the plans for economic and social development."

Even if legal changes do go through, experience in recent years shows that's no guarantee of more children.

Families complain of the soaring costs of housing, education, health care and safe food, an important consideration given China's frequent scandals over food and drug safety. And many young Chinese who are enjoying activities such as foreign travel are simply putting off marriage and childbirth indefinitely.

"Other things have taken the place of children, like apartments and vacations. My parents put pressure on us, but I just say it's not possible right now," said a government employee who asked to be identified only as Linda. □

Haitians seek water, food as businesses reopen after protest

By EVENS SANON
DANICA COTO
Associated Press
PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti
(AP) — Businesses and government offices slowly reopened across Haiti on Monday after more than a week of violent demonstrations over prices that have doubled for food, gas and other basic goods in recent weeks and allegations of government corruption.

Public transportation resumed in the capital, Port-au-Prince, where people began lining up to buy food, water and gas as crews cleared barricaded streets, where hundreds of thousands of Haitians had protested to demand the resignation of President Jovenel Moise.

Moise has refused to step down, though his prime minister, Jean-Henry Ceant, said over the weekend that he has agreed to reduce certain government budgets by 30 percent, limit travel of government officials and remove all non-essential privileges they enjoy, including phone cards. Ceant also vowed to investigate alleged misspending tied to a Venezuelan program that provided Haiti with subsidized oil and said he has requested that a court audit all state-owned enterprises.

But many Haitians remained wary of those promises, and schools re-



Demonstrators drag the body of a fellow protester toward police, as a form of protest after police shot into the crowd in which he died, during a demonstration demanding the resignation of Haitian President Jovenel Moise near the presidential palace in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Tuesday, Feb. 12, 2019.

mained closed on Monday amid concerns of more violence.

"The government is making statements that are not changing anything at this point," said Hector Jean, a moto taxi driver who was waiting for customers. He recently had to buy a gallon of gas for 500 gourdes (\$6), more than twice what he normally pays, and he has been unable to find customers who can afford to pay higher fares.

"It's very hard to bring something home," he said. "I have three kids."

Other goods in the Western Hemisphere's poorest

nation have also doubled in price in recent weeks: A sack of rice now costs \$18 and a can of dry beans around \$7. In addition, a gallon of cooking oil has gone up to nearly \$11 from \$7. Inflation has been in the double digits since 2014, and the price hikes are angering many people in Haiti, where about 60 percent of its nearly 10.5 million people struggle to get by on about \$2 a day. A recent report by the U.S. Agency for International Development said about half the country is undernourished.

The latest violent demon-

strations prompted the U.S. government to warn people last week not to travel to Haiti as it urged Moise's administration to implement economic reforms and redouble efforts to fight corruption and hold accountable those implicated in the scandal over the Venezuelan subsidized oil program known as Petrocaribe.

A Haitian Senate investigation has alleged embezzlement by at least 14 former officials in ex-President Michel Martelly's administration, but no one has been charged. Meanwhile, Haitians have demanded a

probe into the spending of the \$3.8 billion Haiti received as part of the Petrocaribe program.

She said she doesn't believe claims that opposition leaders are behind the demonstrations or that people are being paid to protest as has happened in previous years given the incredible number of people that have taken to the streets in recent days.

However, Kolbe warned that even if Moise were forced to step down, it would not resolve one of Haiti's underlying issues: how to address corruption.

"People are just kind of exhausted with the business elite running the country and retaining control and not knowing where public funds are going," she said.

Martelly hand-picked Moise in 2015 to be the candidate for the ruling Tet Kale party even though the businessman from northern Haiti had never run for office. Moise was sworn in as president in February 2017 for a five-year term and promised to fight corruption and bring investment and jobs to one of the least developed nations in the world. His swearing-in marked Haiti's return to constitutional rule a year after Martelly left office without an elected successor amid waves of opposition protests and a political stalemate that led to suspended elections. □

Mexico to close infamous island penal colony

Associated Press
MEXICO CITY (AP) — Mexico will close a famed island penal colony off the country's Pacific coast and convert it into a cultural and environmental education center, President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador said Monday.

The federal prison on the largest of the Islas Marias will release about 200 of its approximately 600 inmates and the rest will be relocated to other prisons.

The prison founded in 1905 on Maria Madre passed through periods of infamous brutality. When Pan-



In this May 12, 2005 file photo, inmate Francisco Loera, who is serving a 10 year sentence, walks with his bass while embracing his partner Alicia Anchondo who arrived to visit him at the Islas Marias federal prison island, located 90 miles south of Mazatlan, Mexico.

Associated Press

ama closed its Isla Coiba penal colony in 2004, Isla Marias was the last one remaining in the Americas.

Lopez Obrador said the new cultural center will be named after Jose Revueltas, who was imprisoned there and wrote the novel "Walls of Water."

"It is the history of punishments, of torture, of repression for more than a century," Lopez Obrador said. He noted that the last riot there occurred in 2003 because it was over capacity. At that time there were 8,000 prisoners there, he said.

Lopez Obrador visited the island 70 miles (110 kilometers) off the coast of Nayarit state Sunday with members of his cabinet.

Environmentalists have pushed the government for years to close the prison and make the islands a nature reserve.

Being tightly controlled and undeveloped outside the prison has helped Islas Marias and other former penal colonies conserve delicate coastal ecosystems that otherwise would have given way to beach resorts or other commercial exploitation. □

LOCAL



Island Insight

The Caquetios of Cayciba, Rock island agro ceramists.



Article by Etnia Nativa
Call us at 5922702 and book your experience
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DESIGN BY STEFFEN HAAS



Episode VI: Farmers and Fishermen masters of ceramics

If we study the history of mankind from early times on, one thing is evident: its numbers are increasing all the time! May this increase be quick during the last centuries or decades; the situation in prehistory was not different – albeit the growth was slower then. The answer mankind has found for problems caused by its increasing number is: organization. In this specific case organization of the plant world by selection and cross-breeding, created an opportunity which in other situation never could have sustained the mention growth. In this way the nutritive value of plants improved: they became domesticated. When large numbers of the improved plants were planted together on a relatively small piece of land organized agriculture became possible and the need to be constant on the hunt diminished drastically. The Amerindians has provided many plants with a high nutritive value to mankind: these were specially potatoes, maize, cassava, peanuts, many species of beans, tomatoes, cacao, vanilla etc.



Pic. 1. Native agro potters preparing the land for agriculture by digging irrigation system in support.

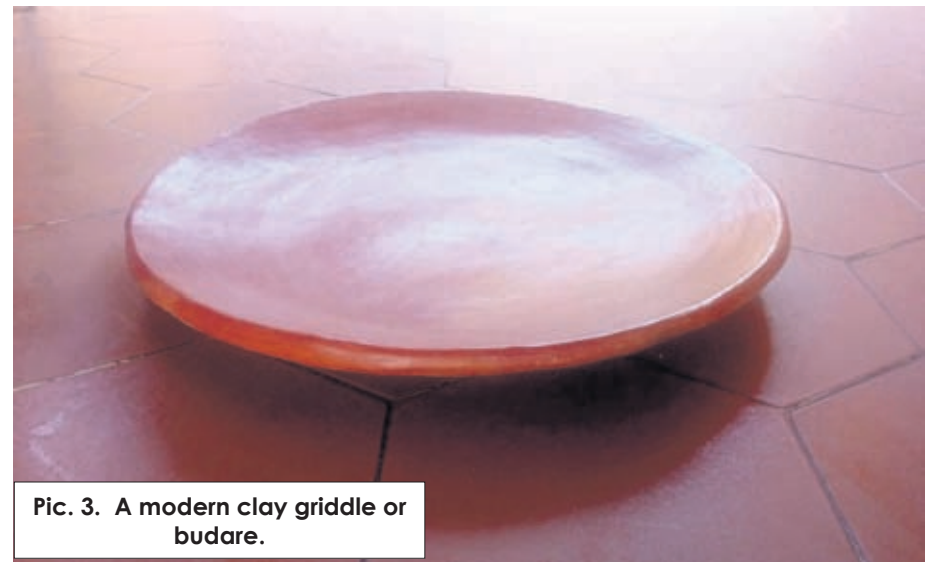
For the area under study maize and manioc have a primary importance. Cassava was domesticated at an early date in Central Amazonia. Early domesticates of maize have been found in Peru and in Mexico from ca 4000 BC on.



Pic. 2. Dabajuroide style water or chacha vessel of Aruban origin. This vessel is exhibited at Aruba's Archaeological Museum in Oranjestad

Amerindians groups in East Venezuela cultivated cassava from ca 2000 BC on. In the same period of time maize was cultivated in West Venezuela. Aruba followed West Venezuelan trends and developments.

The general development to provide the main part of the diet in an "organized" way resulted in larger villages and more permanent village locations, heavier-built houses, etc. Under such conditions- and we see this all over the world- people start to store liquids and to process food in more elaborate way than in "hunter-gatherer" communities: as soon as the use of domesticated



Pic. 3. A modern clay griddle or budare.

plants (agriculture) starts, the use of pottery or ceramics develops (hence Ceramic Period). These developments are present in Venezuela for a long time without affecting Aruba.

Ca 9000 – 1000 AD, however, Amerindians with such technologies came to Aruba and founded large villages. All these villages are situated on good soil for the gardens in which the food plants were cultivated. In a relatively dry Island such as Aruba that is near the best locations from a geomorphological ('soil') and hydrological ('water') point of view: near the guts or 'rooien'.

We call these Ceramic Indians, after the specific style of their pottery. Such pottery was excavated first by archaeologists near Dabajuro, a town near Coro on the Venezuelan mainland. It is handsome, well-made pottery as can be seen in the exposition of the Archaeological Museum Aruba.

Not all the pottery that were excavated by Archeologists at the large villages (three are most important: Santa Cruz and Tanki Flip at some distance from the south-west coast, and Savaneta near that coast) were as well-finished as some of the specimens that have a place of honor in this Aruba's archaeological museum. Well-finished and decorated ceramic artifacts where in most of the time elaborated for ceremonial use, and this was in gratitude to the spirits that had been generous with the people. So that more

than 90 % of the excavated ceramic work was undecorated 'utility-ware': vessels to store liquids, cooking pottery and griddles. This last category is formed by large, ca 2 cm thick flat circular plates of ceramic, budare or buren used to prepare cakes of cassava and maize.

The Aruban pan batí or beaten bread in Papiamentois derived for this kind of cooking method. We must mention that this way of cooking corn or maize flat bread on a clay plate is common all over the American continent. For example the name budare comes from Arawakan- Caquetian language. The buren which forms the word Burenquen the native name of Puerto Rico, stands for many buren or many cooking plates indicating the abundance of food and the comal of Mexico, which is used to roast the famous tortilla. Nowadays clay comal or Budare's has been replaced by cast iron griddles that in Aruba is called the casuela. However clay budare's always has given that special native taste to this simple but nutritious cake or flat bread. Another preparation which is made of grinded corn kernels corn is our funchi, which can be compared to what is known as polenta or corn cake in Italian cooking.

If you like our stories we recommend you to follow us next week for the following episode or book your personal Etnia Nativa experience and take it home with you. □

Alhambra

Casino and Shops hosted its 2018 Crewmember Awards Ceremony

Oranjestad- Last Tuesday like every year the Alhambra Casino and Shops gives recognition to the loyal Team Members for their perfect attendance as well as the team members who celebrates their 5th, 10th, 20th, 25th year of service. This was recognized in an Employee Award Ceremony which was held in the Hyatt Regency Aruba Resort.

Mrs. Annie Dirksz who is the Marketing Manager of Alhambra Casino and Shops opened the ceremony with a big welcome to all team members and guests and invited everyone to enjoy the delicious lunch buffet. After lunch Ms. Susan Varnes who is the COO of Treasure Bay, LLC started with the official ceremony.

The first recognition of the ceremony was for "perfect attendance". In total there were 57 Team Members that were honored for perfect attendance. Each Team Member received their certificate. The ceremony followed with the announcement of the Anniversary Awards. A total of 23 Team Members received the Anniversary Awards.

Last but not least Mr. Rick Ingrassia who is the Director of Operations announced the Supervisor of 2018 Nilca Ensen and the Crewmember of the year 2018 Kenia Perez.

This way Alhambra Casino and Shops shows its appreciation to his Team Members every year and they surely will keep bringing new incentives to stimulate their Team Members. □



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2018 Crewmember Awards Ceremony





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VIP DESK AT 527-2276/77

Urgency (UCA) or Emergency (ED)? *How to choose where to go for medical attention*



Dr. Carlos Yagua Jr. and Dr. Carlos Yagua Sr., son and father

ORANJESTAD — When on vacation and an unexpected health mishap arise, many people's first reaction is to head to an emergency room. But when those illnesses and injuries aren't true emergencies, not knowing the best option for care can end up costing both time and money.

So how can you know where to go when medical attention is needed?

Urgent Care Aruba (UCA) or Emergency Department?

UCA at the Noord Medical Center provide a way to keep up with patients' daily health-care needs, serving as a vital link between the emergency room and primary care physicians.

Dr. Carlos Yagua Velasquez, Managing Director of UCA explains that they, as a family of nine (9) physicians, started the development of UCA in 2013 because it provides patients with an alternative to the emergency room, which can be too costly and time-consuming for situations like common illnesses and minor injuries. He states that "While the ED at the Dr. Horacio Oduber is best equipped to handle life-threatening illnesses and injuries, it's important that patients are aware that there are more affordable options available for less serious situations."



Due to shorter wait times – they offer a wait time of 30 minutes or less – and much lower prices, as a more convenient and affordable option than, but not a substitute for, an emergency room. To help the local community and their visitors from abroad to save money, Urgent Care Aruba known as UCA, is gathering resources to educate and promote on the best healthcare options.

When care is needed for true emergency situations, such as heart attacks, strokes, major bleeding or severe burns, it's vital to go to the ED at the Dr. Horacio Oduber Hospital immediately.

Financial Savings

When patients visit an emergency room for a non-emergency, they risk incurring a substantial financial loss. Emergency rooms are more expensive for treatment of non-life-threatening situations, while UCA at the Noord Medical Center charges an average of 1/3 of the cost.

Plus, a large percentage of all emergency room visits could take place at UCA, which would save consumers. Additionally, UCA accepts certain travel insurance plans, with either full coverage, co-pays, or they will provide you with all pertinent documentation for reimbursement as a self-pay visit.

Understanding the options

"With the availability of a facility, such as UCA, patients need to take care to understand their options," Dr. Carlos Yagua Jr said. "The emergency room prices can cause sticker shock for patients who aren't aware of the distinction."

Residents and visitors from abroad should be sure to confirm the type of facility they're visiting, as treatment at the ER may cost more than UCA at the Noord Medical Center. □

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SPORTS



Team LeBron's Kevin Durant, of the Golden State Warriors holds his MVP trophy after the NBA All-Star basketball game, on Sunday, Feb. 17, 2019, in Charlotte, N.C. The Team LeBron won 178-164.

Associated Press

Team LeBron rallies to beat Team Giannis, 178-164

By TIM REYNOLDS

AP Basketball Writer

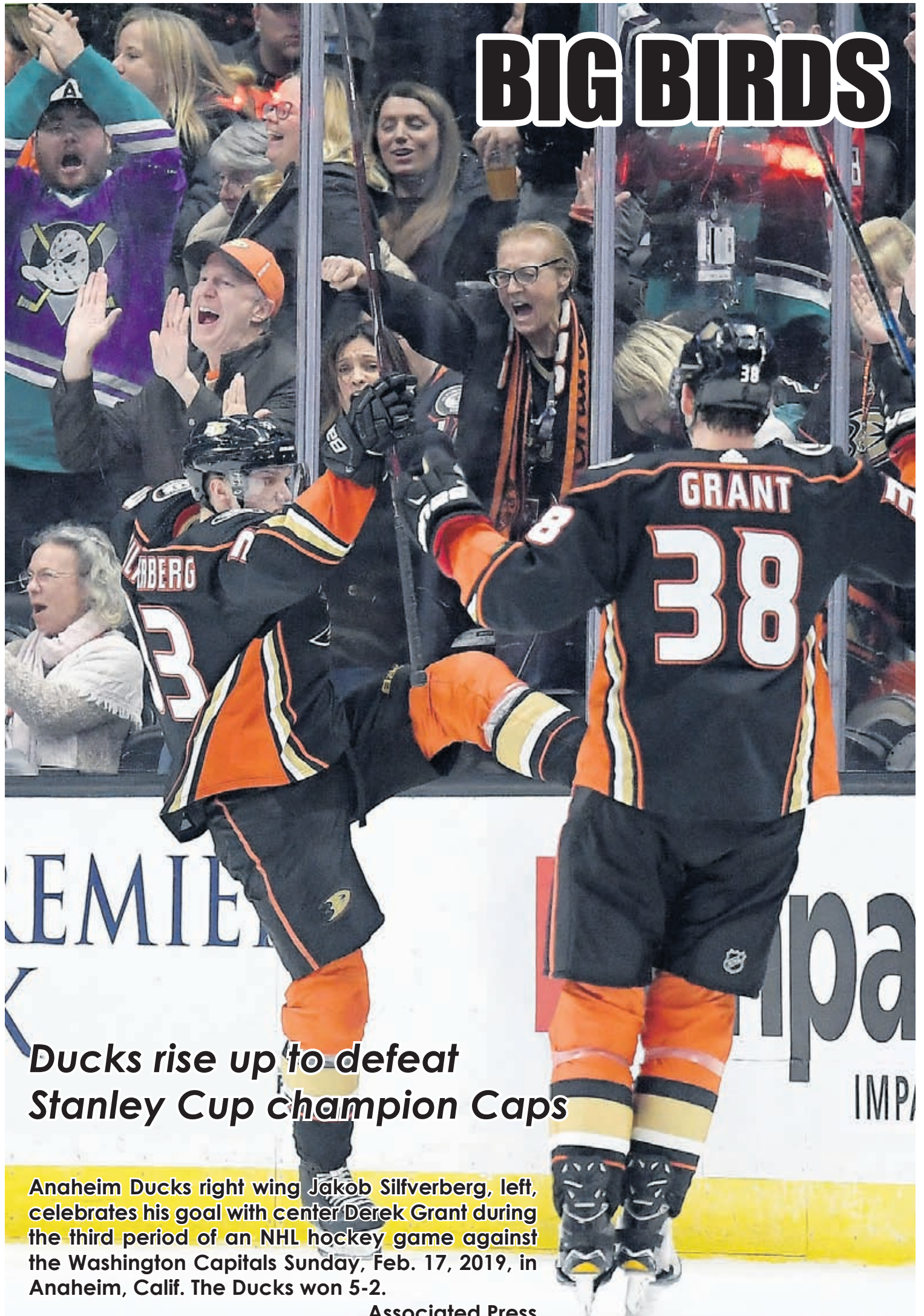
CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) —

LeBron James was trading lob passes with Dwyane Wade again, one last time. Catching lobbs from former teammate Kyrie Irving once again, too. And after making a stepback 3-pointer late, he stared down Joel Embiid to send a message without saying a word.

Oh, this mattered to James — and Team LeBron as well.

Team LeBron, down by 20 in the second half, finally got firing and went on to beat Team Giannis 178-164 in the All-Star Game on Sunday night. MVP Kevin Durant scored 31 points for Team LeBron, the one that James drafted and led to victory in the captain's-choice format for a second consecutive season.

Continued on Page 22



BIG BIRDS

Ducks rise up to defeat Stanley Cup champion Caps

Anaheim Ducks right wing Jakob Silfverberg, left, celebrates his goal with center Derek Grant during the third period of an NHL hockey game against the Washington Capitals Sunday, Feb. 17, 2019, in Anaheim, Calif. The Ducks won 5-2.

Associated Press

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Shiffrin prevails despite distractions over her choices

By **ANDREW DAMPF**

AP Sports Writer

ARE, Sweden (AP) — Maybe Alpine skiing won't be so lost without Lindsey Vonn and Aksel Lund Svindal after all.

One week after Vonn and Svindal retired by claiming medals in their final races, Mikaela Shiffrin and Marcel Hirscher both showed true grit by fighting through debilitating sickness to claim the slalom titles at the world championships that everyone expected them to win. "As we say in the country we come from, 'Long live the king' and there will be a new one," said International Ski Federation secretary general Sarah Lewis, who is British. "There is no question that Marcel Hirscher is wearing that loud and proud at the moment, and Mikaela Shiffrin as well."

Shiffrin and Hirscher are both on course to become the most successful skiers ever in their respective genders.

At age 23, Shiffrin already has 56 World Cup wins, and 29-year-old Hirscher, the seven-time defending overall World Cup champion, has 68.

Vonn retired with 82 wins, the best among women and four short of the overall record of 86 held by Swedish great Ingemar Stenmark.

Svindal left with two overall titles and 13 medals at Olympics and worlds.

Shiffrin also won the super-G — her first major title in a speed event — and bronze in giant slalom.

The slalom victory meant Shiffrin became the first skier, male or female, to win the same event at four straight worlds.

Still, it was a challenging championships for Shiffrin after Vonn and Bode Miller, her childhood idols, questioned her decision to skip the Alpine combined — an event she would have been the overwhelming favorite to win. Shiffrin then didn't show up at Vonn's retirement race.

There were also accusations from the coaching staff of Slovakian rival Petra Vlhova that they were denied a chance to train with Shiffrin when many of the slalom specialists went over to Trysil, Norway, midway through worlds — even though it's common for top



United States' Mikaela Shiffrin poses after winning the women's slalom, at the alpine ski World Championships in Are, Sweden, Saturday, Feb. 16, 2019. United States' Mikaela Shiffrin poses after winning the women's slalom, at the alpine ski World Championships in Are, Sweden, Saturday, Feb. 16, 2019.

skiers to practice side by side.

When Vlhova won the giant slalom and Shiffrin claimed the slalom, the pair of racers embraced both times and appeared to exchange heartfelt words.

"In two weeks of time a lot of stuff can happen. It's life. Life happens," Shiffrin said. "There's a lot of things that happened. It's just too many things to explain to everybody right now. It would take much too long. But in the moments that it counted, my team and I were able to focus on the true task and the reason we're here. That's something special."

Vlhova would not reveal what she and Shiffrin said to each other.

"It's crazy, everybody is asking me what I say to Mikaela. It's between us, so it's secret," Vlhova said with a smile.

Add Ted Ligety, the only other American skier besides Shiffrin to win five world titles, to the list of U.S. greats urging Shiffrin to do more and be less calculating with her decisions.

"I understand that need or desire to take some time away but I always felt like you got to strike while the iron is hot," Ligety told The Associated Press. "If you asked me in 2015 if I would

only win one more World Cup I would have laughed in your face. You blow out your knee, then you throw your back a couple times and you have back surgery and next thing you know you're struggling to stay in it."

Ligety, who was unbeatable in giant slalom for a long stretch of his career, has achieved only one podium result in the last three seasons while he's been slowed by injuries. But back in 2013 when he was at the height of his powers, Ligety swept gold in super-G, combined and giant slalom at the 2013 worlds in Schladming, Austria. □

Associated Press

Woods, Djokovic, Vonn win Laureus World Sports Awards

MONACO (AP) — Tiger Woods, Novak Djokovic, Lindsey Vonn and the France national soccer team were among the winners at the Laureus World Sports Awards, with Woods claiming the Comeback Award 19 years after he was first recognized.

Woods, who won the inaugural World Sportsman of the Year award in 2000, won the Tour Championship in September for his 80th PGA Tour title and his first since August 2013.

Djokovic matched Usain Bolt's record by being named World Sportsman of the Year for the fourth time after winning Wimbledon and the U.S. Open. He also



Tiger Woods tees off on the 17th hole during the final round of the Genesis Open golf tournament at Riviera Country Club on Sunday, Feb. 17, 2019, in the Pacific Palisades area of Los Angeles.

Associated Press

earned the honor in 2012, 2015 and 2016. Vonn, who retired during the recent Alpine skiing world championships, took home the Spirit of Sport Award, which is given to an athlete for relentless dedication to his or her career, and France was honored for winning the World Cup in July.

Simone Biles was named World Sportswoman of the Year for winning four gold, one silver and one bronze medal at the gymnastics world championships. Naomi Osaka won the Breakthrough Award for winning the U.S. Open and Chloe Kim was named the World Action Sportsperson of the Year. □

Miller becomes U.S.-born goalies win leader in Ducks' win

By JOE REEDY

AP Sports Writer

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) —

Ryan Miller picked up a milestone win in his first game in two months.

Miller became the all-time leader in wins by a U.S.-born goaltender Sunday night as he made 23 saves in the Anaheim Ducks 5-2 victory over the Washington Capitals on Sunday night.

It was Miller's 375th victory, breaking a tie with John Vanbiesbrouck.

"He's definitely a goalie I looked up to and a nice moment. He was fixture through the 1980s and '90s when I was growing up and watching hockey," Miller said. "I was happy I could do it at home with the family here."

Miller tied Vanbiesbrouck on Dec. 2, when the Ducks rallied for a win at Washington. The 17-year veteran though had not played since Dec. 9 due to a knee injury.

"It is very satisfying to come off an injury and make a difference. When you have a knee injury you are never sure what will happen and it took longer than I had hoped," Miller said. "I had a few clunky moments but I worked through it."

Adam Henrique and Jakob Silfverberg each had two goals as the Ducks broke a 2-2 tie after two periods with three goals in the third, with the first two coming on the power play.

Alex Ovechkin scored his 40th goal of the season for Washington to become the fourth player in NHL history with 10 or more 40-goal seasons. Wayne Gretzky had 12 while Marcel Dionne and Mario Lemieux each had 10.

John Carlson also scored for the Capitals and Braden Holtby made 34 saves.

"We were probably fortunate to be tied going in to the third," Washington defenseman Brooks Orpik said. "Obviously, it's easy to point to special teams and penalties, but there was a lot going on before that. We just weren't very sharp." Henrique gave the Ducks a 3-2 lead when he scored on a power play 37 sec-



Anaheim Ducks goaltender Ryan Miller deflects a shot during the third period of an NHL hockey game against the Washington Capitals Sunday, Feb. 17, 2019, in Anaheim, Calif. The Ducks won 5-2.

onds into the third. Henrique — who also had an assist — got a loose puck in front of the net in traffic and put it in the net when the Capitals were unable to clear.

Corey Perry added a goal and an assist. His power-play goal on a one-timer from Cam Fowler at 3:40 of the third was his first in eight games. Perry missed the first 51 games after undergoing right knee surgery last September.

Silfverberg's team-leading 15th of the season at 14:55 put the Ducks up by three. "We played a full game we've been searching for. No matter what happened in the game, we responded and stuck to the game plan," Henrique said. "We kept putting pucks in, kept getting pressure and kept skating."

Ovechkin's one-timer from the left faceoff circle during a Washington power play at 4:58 of the first gave the Capitals a 1-0 lead. Ovechkin, who leads the league in goals, has three goals and seven assists in his last seven games.

Anaheim tied it at 6:26 of the second when Henrique redirected Brandon Mon-

tour's shot.

The Ducks took a 2-1 lead at 14:07 on a tic-tac-toe goal when Hampus Lindholm found Silfverberg in front of the goal. Silfverberg then passed it to Henrique on a two-man rush and got it back on a return feed to put it past Holtby.

Carlson tied it at 17:01 as he lofted a wrist shot from near the blue line that found its way through traffic for his ninth of the season.

BLUES 3, WILD 0

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) — Jordan Binnington made 31 saves and the St. Louis Blues posted their third straight shutout, beating the Minnesota Wild 4-0 on Sunday for their 10th straight victory.

Binnington made 21 saves to blank Arizona on Thursday night, and Jake Allen stopped 32 shots in a 3-0 victory at Colorado on Saturday. St. Louis hasn't allowed a goal in 187:16, since late in an 8-3 victory over New Jersey on Tuesday night. Vladimir Tarasenko had a goal and two assists and Ryan O'Reilly, Vince Dunn and Brayden Schenn also scored to help St. Louis match the best winning streak in franchise

history, completed in January 2002. The run also ties the Blues for the longest streak in the NHL this season. The Blues have won eight straight on the road, their best such run since taking 10 straight in 2000.

Alex Stalock stopped 26 shots for Minnesota in his first action since Feb. 2.

PENGUINS 6, RANGERS 5

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Evgeni Malkin and Kris Letang each had two goals and Pittsburgh beat New York to climb back into playoff position. Defensemen Marcus Pettersson and Brian Dumoulin also scored and Sidney Crosby had three assists to help the Penguins pass Carolina for the second Eastern Conference wild-card spot.

Mats Zuccarello had two goals, and Kevin Hayes and Mika Zibanejad added goals for New York.

FLYERS 3, RED WINGS 1

DETROIT (AP) — Ivan Provorov broke a tie early in the third period and Oskar Lindblom had two goals in Philadelphia's victory over Detroit. The Flyers have won 12 of their last 14 games, moving into contention for a wild card in the Eastern Conference playoffs

or perhaps for one of the three guaranteed postseason spots available in the Metropolitan Division. Carter Hart made 37 saves, allowing only Darren Helm's second-period goal.

PANTHERS 6, CANADIENS 3

SUNRISE, Fla. (AP) — Aleksander Barkov had his second career hat trick and added an assist for his third four-game, helping Florida beat Montreal.

Riley Sheahan, Frank Vatrano and Denis Malgin also scored and James Reimer stopped 28 shots. Max Domi scored twice for the Canadiens, and Brendan Gallagher also had a goal. Antti Niemi allowed three goals on nine shots before being replaced by Carey Price.

DEVILS 4, SABRES 1

NEWARK, N.J. (AP) — Kyle Palmieri had a goal and two assists and Cory Schneider made 34 saves to lead New Jersey past Buffalo.

Miles Wood, Jesper Bratt and Joey Anderson also scored to help the Devils win consecutive games for the second time since the start of the year. Sam Reinhart scored for the Sabres. □

Joe Gibbs dedicates Daytona 500 victory to late son J.D.

By JENNA FRYER

AP Auto Racing Writer
DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. (AP)

— Joe Gibbs closed his eyes during a tribute lap for his late son, while crew members raised a banner to honor the co-founder of Joe Gibbs Racing.

J.D. Gibbs had been hand-picked by his father to run the organization, changed tires during the early seasons, had a brief stint as a driver, pushed for a pivotal switch to Toyota and discovered Denny Hamlin. He signed Hamlin to drive the No. 11, his number from his football days, and it is his name above the driver door on Hamlin's car.

J.D. Gibbs died last month following a long battle with a degenerative neurological disease and Hamlin dedicated this NASCAR season to Gibbs' memory. When Hamlin crossed the finish line Sunday night to win his second Daytona 500 in four years, Joe Gibbs could not hold back what the moment meant to him. A Hall of Fame NFL coach with three Super Bowl victories ranked JGR's third Daytona 500 win as top.

"It's the most emotional and the biggest win I've ever had in my life in anything," Gibbs said. "J.D. built our race team, was the guy that ran day to day operations for 27 years. He invested his occupational life in our race team. It was the most important night in my occupational life."

"I know J.D. and everybody in my family was emotional."

Hamlin came to Daytona determined to honor his late car owner with a victory.

He delivered a storybook tribute.

Hamlin led JGR in a 1-2-3 sweep of the podium in overtime and was met in victory lane by the entire Gibbs family, including J.D.'s widow and four sons. "He meant a lot to me and it's hard for me not getting choked up because I've been choked up about 100 times about it," Ham-



Denny Hamlin, center front, poses for a photo with his crew members after winning the NASCAR Daytona 500 auto race at Daytona International Speedway, Sunday, Feb. 17, 2019, in Daytona Beach, Fla.

Associated Press

lin said. "Just to have Melissa (Gibbs) and all the kids here, it's just crazy."

Kyle Busch and Erik Jones finished second and third as JGR became the second team in NASCAR history to sweep the Daytona 500 podium. Hendrick Motorsports did it in 1997 with Jeff Gordon, Terry Labonte and Ricky Craven.

Busch, now winless in 14 Daytona 500s, was initially openly disappointed in falling short.

But he reiterated the JGR and Toyota goal of working together to win the race and noted he didn't have much of a shot at beating Hamlin because the field had been decimated by a flurry of late accidents.

"Was trying to make sure one of us gets to victory lane, first and foremost," Busch said. "There wasn't enough cars out there running at the end. I don't know how it would have played out."

Hamlin and Busch alternated as the leaders during the handful of late restarts, and the final rush to the checkered flag was a push to hold off Ford driver and reigning NASCAR champion Joey Logano. The Ford camp went 1-2-3 in both of Thursday's qualifying races and was favored to win the Daytona 500.

Logano, who started his

career at JGR, settled for fourth and also took a moment to honor J.D. Gibbs.

"I'm not a Gibbs driver but for what J.D. has done for my career is the reason why I'm sitting here today," Logano said. "As bad as I want to win it, it is pretty cool to think that the first race after his passing, to see those guys one, two, three, it just says he's up there watching and maybe gave (those) guys a little extra boost there at the end."

Hamlin last year suffered through his first winless season in the Cup Series and made a crew chief change during the offseason. When he won the 500 in 2016 it was his debut race with crew chief Mike Wheeler, and this victory came in his first race with Chris Gabehart.

Hamlin's first Daytona 500 victory was in a photo finish against Martin Truex Jr. and the celebration was a blur. This one, he said, he will enjoy.

"I think I was so dumbfounded about everything that happened the first time with the photo finish and everything," Hamlin said. "This one lets me soak it in a little bit more. I'm going to have a terrible hangover tomorrow, but I'm going to enjoy it the rest of my life." □



In this Dec. 2, 2018, file photo, Pittsburgh Steelers wide receiver Antonio Brown (84) plays against the Los Angeles Chargers in an NFL football game, in Pittsburgh.

Associated Press

Ready, Aim, Tweet; Brown fires at Ben Roethlisberger, and coach Mike Tomlin

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Antonio Brown's laundry list of issues with the Pittsburgh Steelers appears to include a problem with quarterback Ben Roethlisberger's leadership style and how head coach Mike Tomlin treated the Pro Bowl wide receiver during the regular-season finale against Cincinnati.

Brown, who has requested a trade, took to Twitter on Saturday to vent in what amounted to his first expanded public comments since a falling out with the organization that has left his future with the club very much in doubt. Asked by a Twitter user about the root of his conflict with Roethlisberger,

Brown responded "No conflict just a matter of respect! Mutual respect! He has a owner mentality like he can call out anybody including coaches. Players know but they can't say anything about it otherwise they meal ticket gone. It's a dirty game within a game. #truth."

Roethlisberger does not hesitate to take teammates to task publicly, a right the two-time Super Bowl winner says he has earned. While rarely overtly critical of Brown this season, Roethlisberger on one occasion declined to name Brown specifically when asked about the benefits of having a No. 1 receiver, instead naming just about every receiver on the roster. Brown also

called out Tomlin for the way he handled Brown during the course of the final week of the regular season. The team sent Brown home two days before the game and ordered him to get some rest and have his knee examined. Tomlin said afterward Brown did not have the exam and did not communicate with the team until early on the morning of the day of the game when his agent, Drew Rosenhaus, contacted Tomlin and said Brown would be available to play. Brown arrived at the stadium in time but did not dress after the team made him inactive. He watched the first half from the sideline but was not around post-game after Pittsburgh won 16-13. The victory, however, did not help the Steelers extend their season.

"After the coach tell the team I quit while nursing some bumps then invite me to watch the show with same guys thinking I quit," Brown tweeted. "I can not stand with that! I'm the bad guy doe (sic) we miss post season think about it." Brown is expected to meet with Pittsburgh Steelers president Art Rooney II — who has declined to disparage Brown despite futile attempts to communicate with the nine-year pro — in coming days. Any such sit-down — if it even happens — appears to offer no chance at reconciling. □

Giants manager Bruce Bochy to retire after this season

By JANIE McCAULEY

AP Baseball Writer

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. (AP) —

Bruce Bochy has always managed with his gut. Those same instincts told him it's nearly time to retire. Bochy announced Monday this will be his last season managing the San Francisco Giants, his 25th in all as a big league manager.

He told the team before Monday's spring training workout at Scottsdale Stadium.

"In my mind it's time," he said.

Bochy, who turns 64 on April 16, had offseason hip replacement surgery that has him moving more swiftly and he insists "the health's great" and didn't factor into the choice.

He begins his 13th season with the Giants. He led the club to World Series championships in 2010, '12 and '14.

"I've managed with my gut. I came up here in 2007 on my gut. So it's a gut feeling it's time," Bochy said. "It's been an unbelievable ride. There's so much in there to be grateful for, with the players, the city, the fans, my ride here. It's time. I'll stay in baseball and do something. ... I'm

not going too far, trust me. I love this game. It's been in my blood, so sure I'll be doing something in another capacity and I look forward to it."

Bochy came to San Francisco from the San Diego Padres before the 2007 season, in time to watch Barry Bonds break Hank Aaron's career home run record that August. He managed Matt Cain's perfect game in 2012 and a pair of no-hitters by Tim Lincecum against the Padres in July 2013 and June '14.

"This will give me time to go back and reflect and even watch some games and think about some of these great achievements and milestones these players have reached," Bochy said. "I've always had a deep appreciation for the gifts and talents of these players. I consider myself fortunate to have managed players like a Bonds and Lincecum."

Every other manager with three or more titles has been inducted into the Hall of Fame.

"I haven't even thought about that," Bochy said.

Giants CEO Larry Baer already envisions a place in Cooperstown for Bochy,

"Words cannot adequately



In this Feb. 13, 2019, file photo, San Francisco Giants manager Bruce Bochy watches his team during a baseball spring training practice, in Scottsdale, Ariz.

express the amount of admiration, gratitude and respect the Giants family has for Bruce Bochy," Baer said in a statement. "His honesty, integrity, passion and brilliance led to the most successful period of Giants baseball in the history of

our franchise. He will always be a Giant and we look forward to honoring him and all of his achievements throughout his final season in San Francisco and inevitably in Cooperstown."

Giants Gold Glove shortstop Brandon Crawford

considers himself fortunate to have played for the same manager his entire career.

"That's definitely special. I don't think many guys have one manager throughout their entire career," Crawford said. "Obviously we have this year to take care of first. Hopefully we make it a memorable one for him. A part of what's made him such a good manager over the years is just being able to work with the players he has, whether that's the bullpen or the bench, he always seemed to plug the right pieces at the right times."

Bochy has faced daily questions about his future, and he wanted to address his plans now and avoid distractions later in the season when he hopes to have a contender again following two years out of the playoffs. He intends to stay in baseball.

"It's something I put a lot of thought in it," Bochy said. "There's a lot of things that I look forward to doing, but right now my head's at this moment, hey, I'm going to focus on getting this team ready. I look forward to one more shot, trust me, and us having a big year. I'm all in." □

Yelich, Brewers focus on clean slate after near-miss in 2018



Milwaukee Brewers' Christian Yelich talks to teammates during a spring training baseball workout Sunday, Feb. 17, 2019, in Phoenix.

By STEPHEN HAWKINS

AP Baseball Writer

PHOENIX (AP) — Christian Yelich has already had conversations with some of his Milwaukee Brewers

teammates about their biggest message this spring after coming up one win short of the World Series.

"What you did last year means nothing basically,

Whether it was good or bad for you as an individual or as a team, it means absolutely nothing. It doesn't matter," Yelich said. "We all start with a clean slate. It's all what are you going to do in 2019 to help the Brewers win."

Even for the young slugging outfielder who was the NL MVP after nearly winning the Triple Crown (.326, 36 homers, 110 RBIs) in his first season with the Brewers. Milwaukee's first full-squad workout is Tuesday, four months after losing to the Los Angeles Dodgers in Game 7 of the NL Championship Series. The Brewers made a late-September surge to force a Game 163 tiebreaker, beat the Chicago Cubs for their first NL Central title since 2011

and swept Colorado in the NL Division Series. "It was a little shorter offseason, not much time for vacation," starter Jhoulys Chacin said. "My vacation was being in the playoffs. That was my time to go on vacation in October. That was perfect. We'll take that every year." The core of the Brewers is still pretty much intact from last season, including Yelich, Chacin, speedy center fielder Lorenzo Cain, 35-homer first baseman Jesus Aguilar and hard-throwing All-Star reliever Josh Hader.

"As a team, you control your own destiny when you have the kind of talent we do here," Yelich said. "You just want to prove that it wasn't a fluke and that you can do it again. And I think

that's the drive, that's the motivation going into the season."

Catcher Yasmani Grandal, a free agent addition who was with the Dodgers, is the most notable addition. Right-hander Jimmy Nelson could help the rotation after missing last season because of right shoulder surgery.

"This is a brand new team with players in different places in their lives, and different places in their careers, different interactions," Counsell said. "I compared it to soup last year. We're going to make the soup again. Some of the ingredients are the same, but there are some different ingredients in that room, and so it's not the same." □

Serena Williams back in top 10 after giving birth

LONDON (AP) — Serena Williams has returned to the top 10 in the tennis rankings for the first time since taking a break to have her first child.

Williams dropped as low as 491st upon her return to competition in March 2018 but is up to No. 10 after reaching two Grand Slam finals since, losing to Angelique Kerber at Wimbledon and Naomi Osaka at the U.S. Open.

Williams hasn't played since her quarterfinal loss to Karolina Pliskova at last month's Australian Open, but she still overtook Caroline Wozniacki. The Danish player's points from reaching last year's Doha semifinals expired this week.

Osaka remains at the top of the rankings. Simona Halep is second and Sloane



This Jan. 26, 2019, file photo shows Japan's Naomi Osaka posing with her trophy after defeating Petra Kvitova of the Czech Republic in the women's singles final at the Australian Open tennis championships in Melbourne, Australia.

Associated Press

Stephens is third, while Petra Kvitova dropped to fourth. □

Miguel Angel Jimenez wins Chubb Classic

NAPLES, Fla. (AP) — Miguel Angel Jimenez won the Chubb Classic on Sunday for his seventh PGA Tour Champions title, beating Bernhard Langer and Olin Browne with a 5-foot par putt on the first hole of a playoff.

Jimenez closed with a 5-under 66 at The Classics at Lely Resort to match Langer and Browne at 13-under 200.

"I'm working hard and I practice and go to the gym, apart from smoking and drinking," Jimenez said. "This is what I love to do. I love to play golf. To me, competing is my life. I go to any competition, I want to win. I working for that."

Jimenez has won in each of his six seasons on the 50-and-over tour. The 55-year-old Spaniard won the major Regions Tradition and Senior British Open last season.

"It's the beginning of the season," Jimenez said. "We are on the third tournament of the season and all the season in front of us. This gives you the energy and the confidence coming up."

Langer shot 68, and Browne had a double bogey on the par-4 18th in regulation for a 66.

"I didn't hit a very good tee shot in regulation and I had a lot of club in," Browne said. "I was in between and I thought there was more wind, and frankly I hit a poor shot, but I ended up in a horrible situation."

The 61-year-old Langer, the Oasis Championship winner last week near his home in Boca Raton, won the event in 2011, 2013 and 2016.

"Played some good golf, hung in there," Langer said. "It wasn't meant to be." □



Team Giannis' Dirk Nowitzki, of the Dallas Mavericks, and Team LeBron's Dwyane Wade, of the Miami Heat, are given jerseys during the second half of an NBA All-Star basketball game, Sunday, Feb. 17, 2019, in Charlotte, N.C.

Associated Press

Team LeBron

Continued from Page 17

"You put me on the floor, I love to compete," James said in the postgame interview room. "I'm a competitor, no matter what it is. I was competing to see if I could get to this table first." He wasn't kidding. He then turned to NBA spokesman Mark Broussard, asked if he was the first player to get into the room and grinned when told he was.

"See what I'm talking about?" James said.

Klay Thompson scored 20 points, and James and Kawhi Leonard each had 19 for the winners.

"It's all sweet to me," Durant said after getting his second All-Star MVP award, to go with the one he claimed in 2012. "It's hard to rank because everything's special. But it's cool to be out there with some of the best players to ever play the game. And to win MVP in front of my family and friends is pretty sweet."

Giannis Antetokounmpo — the first-time captain — led everybody with 38 points on 17 for 23 shooting for the club he drafted. Paul George and Khris Middleton each scored 20 points for Team Giannis, which got 17 apiece from Stephen Curry and Russell Westbrook.

"Just being the leader of a

team, it wasn't as tough as I thought," Antetokounmpo said. "My teammates, the guys in the locker room, encouraged me to step up and take it serious and play hard."

The highlights, as would be expected, were absurdly good, time and again.

Curry slammed the ball off the floor on a first-half fast break and watched it ricochet toward the rim with an apex that flirted with the top of the backboard. Too high for most humans — but Antetokounmpo isn't most humans. The freakishly long Greek star slammed Curry's unconventional alley-oop pass home, with both benches reacting in disbelief. Curry then slammed an alley-oop on the last play of the game, to himself, for a dunk that closed the scoring in his hometown.

"I thought we put on a great show tonight," said Kemba Walker, Charlotte's lone player in the game.

It was not a defensive showcase, as always.

Team Giannis set an All-Star record with 23 field goals in the first quarter, topping the mark of 22 set on four other occasions — by both the West and the East in the first quarter of the 2017 game, and by the West in both the second and third quarters of the 2016 game. The 53 points tied a one-

quarter All-Star record as well, matching the total by the West in the third quarter of the 2016 games and by the East in the first quarter of the 2017 game. But when it was time to get competitive, things tightened up considerably, at least by All-Star standards. But when Team LeBron used a flurry of 3s to get back into it in the third quarter, everyone on the bench was standing — sometimes running from the bench and onto the court during play, the celebrations a bit more exuberant than what's usually allowed.

"We got the win," said Houston's James Harden, who scored 12 points for Team LeBron. "That's all that matters."

And the All-Star farewells for Miami's Wade and Dallas' Dirk Nowitzki — the adds to the game by NBA Commissioner Adam Silver, in honor of their career bodies of work — were festive, as everyone wanted.

Nowitzki entered the game late in the first quarter and made his first three shots — all of them 3-pointers — before heading back to the bench. Wade checked in not long after Nowitzki took the floor, then started the second half and achieved his primary missions for his last All-Star Game as a player. □

NBA, FIBA announce plans for pro league in Africa

By TIM REYNOLDS

AP Basketball Writer

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) —

The NBA is bringing a pro league to Africa.

The Basketball Africa League, a new collaboration between the NBA and the sport's global governing body FIBA, was announced Saturday. The initial plan is for the 12-team league to begin play in January, and former President Barack Obama is among those who are expected to have direct involvement with the league's plan to keep growing the game in Africa through the league and other initiatives.

The scope of what Obama's involvement will be remains unknown, and it's yet to be determined which existing club teams will be part of the league. Qualification tournaments will be held later this year to determine those clubs, with teams from Angola, Egypt, Kenya, Morocco, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa and Tunisia expected to be among those taking part. No nation will have more than two teams in the league.

"As we've been talking about this concept over the last several months,



In this Nov. 1, 2018 file photo, NBA Commissioner Adam Silver announces that the Cleveland Cavaliers will host the 2022 NBA All Star game during a news conference in Cleveland.

Associated Press

there's been a tremendous reception from many of our NBA team owners ... and in addition, several of the partners of the NBA have expressed a strong desire to work with us in Africa," Silver said.

Silver said Pepsi and Nike's Jordan Brand — Charlotte owner Michael Jordan was among the owners in the room where Silver made the announcement — are among the partners who have reached out to the NBA and said they want to be part of the Africa league. Silver also said that Obama, an enormous basketball fan, has told him he

wants to "be directly involved with these activities in Africa."

Silver said talks between the NBA and Obama are ongoing. Obama spoke on a video that was shown during the event where Silver announced the league. "I hope you know through sport, that if you put in effort, you will be rewarded," Obama said. "I hope you learn through sport what it means to play as a team, and even if you are the best player, your job is not just to show off but your job is to make your teammates better."

The NBA and FIBA's involve-

ment will include financial support and resources toward continued growing of the game on the continent, as well as providing training for players, coaches and referees and some infrastructure for the new league. Silver said there are 438 companies in Africa that generate more than \$1 billion in revenue annually, but that sport there has not seen the same growth — yet.

"Africa is a huge economic engine," Silver said. "And one place, though, where we haven't seen enormous economic growth yet is in the industry of sport. And that's something that we are all particularly focused on."

The NBA has held three games in Africa since 2015, all of them selling out — two games in Johannesburg, the other in Pretoria. Many of the league's current players and coaches, along with several legends and Hall of Famers, have been part of those trips.

"I went with them last year," Basketball Hall of Famer Kareem Abdul-Jabbar said. "The NBA reaches out across the world."

The league has an office in South Africa, has helped

create 87 learn-and-play facilities in seven African nations, and 13 players who were born in Africa on opening-night NBA rosters this season. The league also built an academy in Senegal that opened nearly two years ago.

"It's a huge joy to see our partnership with the NBA enter uncharted territory as we work together for the first time to maximize the potential of professional basketball in Africa," said Andreas Zagklis, FIBA's secretary general. □

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Sports' future in balance as Semenya-IAAF showdown opens

By JAMEY KEATEN

Associated Press

LAUSANNE, Switzerland

(AP) — The longtime standoff between Olympic champion Caster Semenya and track and field's governing body over issues of gender, hormones and performance in sports reached a pivotal phase on Monday as a key tribunal began hosting a planned five-day hearing in a case that could have massive repercussions throughout sports. The two-time 800-meter gold medalist from South Africa came and went from the offices of the Court of Arbitration for Sport on Monday without addressing reporters after a marathon opening session, but her legal team

and IAAF lawyers were still jockeying for position in the court of public opinion. Both sides acknowledged that the ruling in the case — which isn't expected until late March — could have huge implications, notably over where to draw the line between the genders and how to ensure fairness in top-tier competition.

Semenya's lawyers issued a statement during the 10-hour session criticizing the IAAF's release of a list of names of five experts that they planned to put forward to make their case. Her legal team said that maneuver violated the spirit of confidentiality over the proceedings "in an effort to influence public opinion." Insisting on



South Africa's runner Caster Semenya, current 800-meter Olympic gold medalist and world champion, arrives for the first day of her hearing at the international Court of Arbitration for Sport, CAS, in Lausanne, Switzerland, Monday, Feb. 18, 2019.

Associated Press

the need for fairness, the IAAF defended "eligibility standards that ensure that athletes who identify as female but have testes, and testosterone levels in the

male range, at least drop their testosterone levels into the female range in order to compete at the elite level in the female classification." □

‘Digital gangsters’: U.K. wants tougher rules for Facebook

By MAE ANDERSON and JILL LAWLESS

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — British lawmakers issued a scathing report Monday that calls for tougher rules to keep Facebook and other tech firms from acting like “digital gangsters” and intentionally violating data privacy and competition laws.

The report on fake news and disinformation on social media sites followed an 18-month investigation by Parliament’s influential media committee. The committee recommended that social media sites should have to follow a mandatory code of ethics overseen by an independent regulator to better control harmful or illegal content.

The report called out Facebook in particular, saying that the site’s structure seems to be designed to “conceal knowledge of and responsibility for specific decisions.”

“It is evident that Facebook intentionally and knowingly violated both data privacy and anti-competition laws,” the report said. It also accused CEO Mark Zuckerberg of showing contempt for the U.K. Parliament by declining numerous invita-



In this May 18, 2012, file photo a television photographer shoots the sign outside of Facebook headquarters in Menlo Park, Calif.

tions to appear before the committee.

“Companies like Facebook should not be allowed to behave like ‘digital gangsters’ in the online world, considering themselves to be ahead of and beyond the law,” the report added. U.K. parliamentary committee reports are intended to influence government policy, but are not binding. The committee said it hoped its conclusions would be considered when the govern-

ment reviews its competition powers in April.

While the U.K. is part of the 28-country European Union, it is due to leave the bloc in late March, so it is unclear whether any regulatory decisions it takes could influence those of the EU. Facebook said it shared “the committee’s concerns about false news and election integrity” and was open to “meaningful regulation.”

“While we still have more

to do, we are not the same company we were a year ago,” said Facebook’s U.K. public policy manager, Karim Palant.

“We have tripled the size of the team working to detect and protect users from bad content to 30,000 people and invested heavily in machine learning, artificial intelligence and computer vision technology to help prevent this type of abuse.” Facebook and other internet companies have been

Associated Press

facing increased scrutiny over how they handle user data and have come under fire for not doing enough to stop misuse of their platforms by groups trying to sway elections.

The report echoes and expands upon an interim report with similar findings issued by the committee in July. And in December, a trove of documents released by the committee offered evidence that the social network had used its enormous trove of user data as a competitive weapon, often in ways designed to keep its users in the dark.

Facebook faced its biggest privacy scandal last year when it emerged that Cambridge Analytica, a now-defunct British political data-mining firm that worked for the 2016 Donald Trump campaign, had accessed the private information of up to 87 million users. Conservative lawmaker Damian Collins, who heads the media committee, said “democracy is at risk” from malicious, targeted disinformation campaigns, often directed from countries such as Russia and spread on Facebook and other social networks. □

Berlin to get single travel app for public, private services

By FRANK JORDANS

Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — Travelers in Berlin will soon be able to use a single app to switch seamlessly between public transport, rental bikes, car-sharing and taxis without signing up for each service individually, officials said Monday.

Lithuanian startup Trafi said Berlin will be the first major European capital to get a transport app that handles billing for all services centrally and requires only a single login. Similar services are already available in Vilnius, Rio de Janeiro and Jakarta.

So-called ‘deep integration’ apps, which remove the annoyance of dealing with multiple providers, are seen as important



In this Friday, Feb. 20, 2015 photo travellers leave a BVG subway train in Berlin, Germany.

Associated Press

for cities trying to prevent people from clogging up congested roads with their own cars.

“This goes in precisely the right direction,” said Andreas Knie, a mobility ex-

pert at the Social Science Center Berlin. “Transport services need to be connected, just like cellphone networks, so you can easily roam from one to another.” Berlin’s aging transport sys-

tem — a maze of underground lines, trams, buses and commuter rail covering an area the size of Dallas — is straining as its population heads toward 4 million.

The capital’s left-wing government has struggled in recent years to integrate new services such as ride-hailing firms, car-sharing companies, free-floating bikes and scooters into the existing infrastructure, some of which dates back to the 19th century.

It wasn’t immediately clear whether smaller companies will get an equal footing in the app, including on valuable real-time data on how customers are moving through the city.

Two large car-sharing companies, Daimler’s car2go and BMW’s DriveNow service, and ride-hailing giant Uber are notably absent from the starting lineup, though more than a dozen smaller rivals are already on board. □

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Oceania # 213
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Condo.

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outdoor kitchen

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Oceania Residence # 513
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Penthouse condo w/ jacuzzi
& private roof top patio



World stocks mostly rise ahead of more China-US trade talks

By ANNABELLE LIANG**Associated Press**

SINGAPORE (AP) — World stocks mostly rose on Monday ahead of more trade talks between Chinese and American officials in Washington this week.

After Asian markets closed with strong gains, European indexes were more subdued. France's CAC 40 gained 0.3 percent to close at 5,168.54 but the DAX in Germany was flat at 11,299.20. Britain's FTSE 100 fell 0.2 percent to 7,219.47. Wall Street was due to remain closed for President's Day. On Friday, China and the U.S. announced plans to resume trade negotiations in Washington, fueling hopes that both countries were edging toward a deal. "We feel we have made headway on very,



A currency trader works at the foreign exchange dealing room of the KEB Hana Bank headquarters in Seoul, South Korea, Monday, Feb. 18, 2019.

very important and difficult issues," U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer said in a meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping.

Xi expressed hope for "a mutually beneficial and win-win agreement," according to the official Xinhua News Agency.

Negotiators had just wrapped up two days of talks in Beijing. A tariffs truce expires March 2 and will leave the U.S. free to

more than double import taxes on \$200 billion in Chinese goods. U.S. President Donald Trump has said he may hold off on these if the country was close to a deal with China. Traders are waiting to see if enough progress was made on thorny issues like Washington's unhappiness over Chinese technology and trade policies. "Achieving a deal is important to avert an escalation in the tariff war between the world's two largest economies," DBS Group Research strategists Philip Wee and Eugene Leow said in a commentary.

"It, however, does not imply that the U.S. would lower tariffs. China will still be looking at fiscal stimulus and monetary easing measures to cushion growth," they added. □

Associated Press

German market watchdog bans short-selling of Wirecard shares

By FRANK JORDANS**Associated Press**

BERLIN (AP) — Germany's financial market regulator issued a two-month ban Monday on short-selling shares of payment service provider Wirecard AG, whose stock has swung sharply in recent months.

The regulator said creating new net short positions or increasing existing net short positions in Wirecard's stock could cause uncertainty over its share price, with potential knock-on effects for the wider market.



In this Tuesday, Sept. 18, 2018 photo the 'wirecard' company headquarters is pictured in Ascheim, Germany.

Associated Press

In short-selling, traders sell shares they do not own but only borrowed, with the possibility to buy them back. It's often used to bet

on a share's drop. Munich-based Wirecard specializes in handling transactions and providing banking cards for other fi-

nancial institutions. Its share price hit 199 euros (\$224) last year before declining, and recently dropped sharply following media reports of possible irregularities. Wirecard has denied wrongdoing.

In a statement, the regulator said recent share price volatility and increase in short positions against payment service provider "have resulted in uncertainty in the market, particularly with regard to the appropriate price determination for shares of Wire-

card AG."

"In the current situation, there is a risk that this uncertainty will increase and escalate into general market uncertainty," it said. Separately, prosecutors in Munich said they have opened an investigation against a Financial Times journalist who had reported on allegations of fraudulent accounting at Wirecard. The probe was triggered by a criminal complaint submitted by an unnamed individual, prosecutors said. □

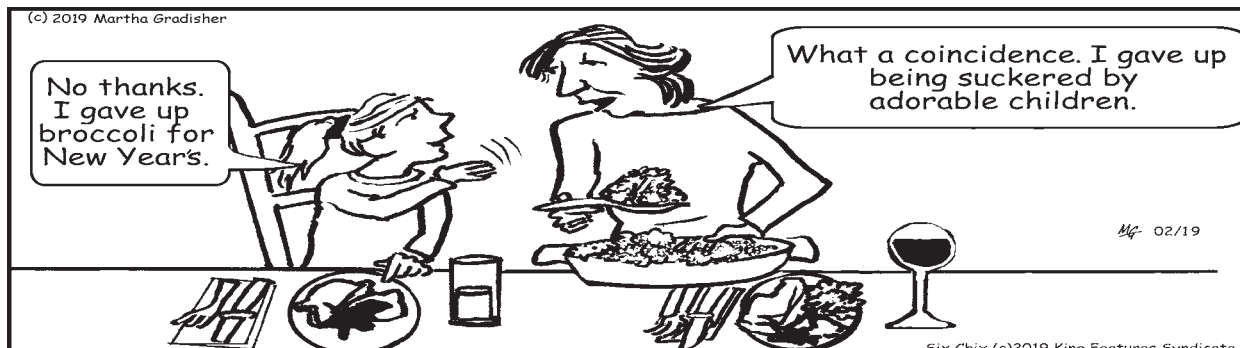
Conceptis Sudoku



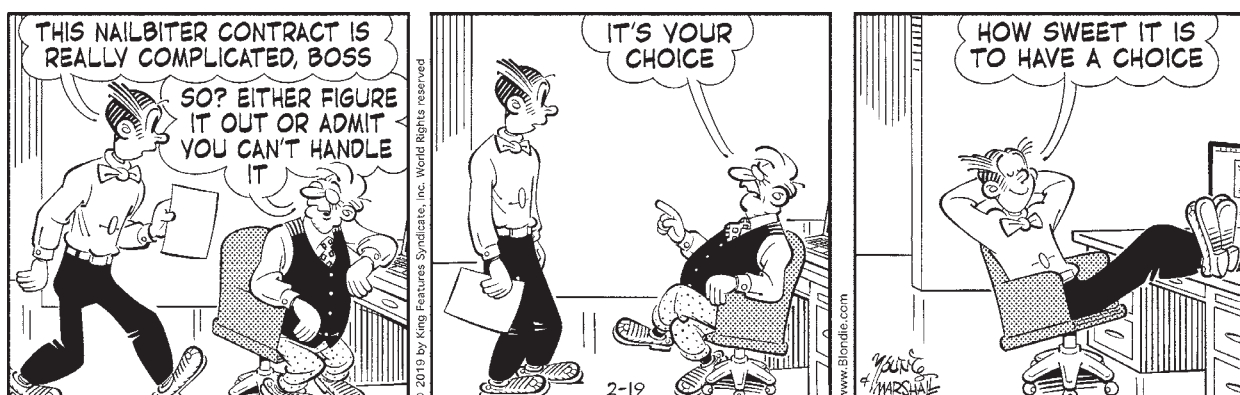
			1					
9				2	5			4
2		7				8		3
	2			6				7
	9			8			4	
3				9			2	
6		2				5		8
7			8	3				6
					4			

2/1

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

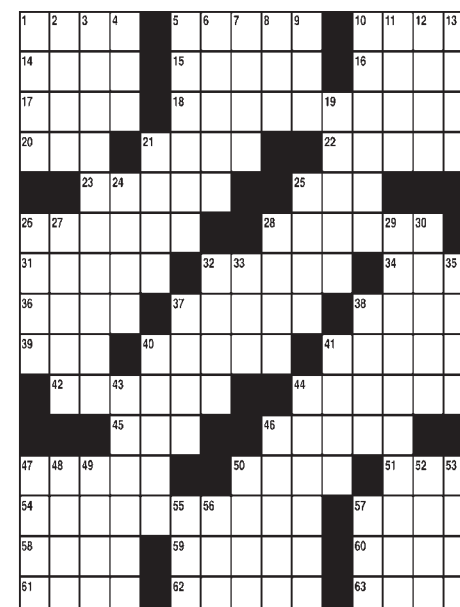


Yesterday's puzzle answer	8	1	5	9	4	3	2	7	6
	4	6	2	7	5	1	9	3	8
	7	9	3	2	6	8	4	5	1
	6	3	7	8	9	4	1	2	5
	1	2	4	6	7	5	3	8	9
	5	8	9	3	1	2	7	6	4
	9	5	8	4	2	7	6	1	3
	2	4	1	5	3	6	8	9	7
	3	7	6	1	8	9	5	4	2



ACROSS

1 Jack or joker
5 Flood members
10 Reach quickly
14 Above
15 Actor Romero
16 Long sandwich
17 Mrs. Herman
Munster
18 Stands for
20 Presidential
monogram
21 Neat
22 Pushover
23 Accepted
standards
25 Spoil; deface
28 Sleep
28 ___ City, Nevada
31 Narrow street
32 Piece of garlic
34 High chair
accessory
36 Untruths
37 Merchandise
38 Get away



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

2/19/

abbr.

40 Sphere of the world

41 Breakfast drink

42 Has __; is troubled

44 Empty-stomach feeling

45 Go quickly

46 Henry or Peter

47 Christmas song

50 Gap

51 "Rub-a-dub-dub, three men in a ____"

54 Honest

57 Bean curd

58 Gershwin's "Rhapsody in ____"

59 Tiny weight

60 Steel's main component

61 __ up; arranges

62 Decree

63 Abnormal sac

DOWN

1 Respiratory ailment

2 Zealous

3 Unstoppable; determined

4 Parched

5 Pinch pennies

6 Pays attention to

7 Notice

8 Cochlea's place

9 Prefix for view or heat

10 Large scissors

11 Penny

12 Carney & others

13 Too inquisitive

19 Trunk tire

21 Cafeteria patron's item

24 Change for a five

25 Dallas team, for short

26 Summon

27 Excuse

28 Secret language

29 Required

30 Family tree member

32 Pigeon sounds

33 Bowl clumsily

35 Bar order

37 Delight

38 Provide money for

Monday's Puzzle Solved

S	H	I	P			A	D	A	M		S	L	O	W
T	O	N	E	R		L	U	T	E		W	I	N	E
A	B	A	T	E		O	B	E	D	I	E	N	C	E
R	O	D		J	A	N				I	N	D	E	E
				E	L	O	P	E		O	L	E		
A	C	Q	U	I	T			S	C	E	N	I	C	
C	H	U	R	N		C	H	A	R	T		M	A	C
T	E	A	K		C	H	A	F	E		S	P	R	Y
S	A	T		S	L	I	D	E		F	O	R	D	S
			P	E	R	K	U	P			P	R	I	E
				A	I	M				F	A	I	L	S
A	P	H	I	D	S			R	W	E		S	A	P
B	R	A	S	S	I	E	R	E		N	O	I	S	E
L	A	T	E		E	D	I	E		D	I	V	A	N
E	Y	E	S		R	U	B	S			L	E	N	T

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40 Slyness; cunning

41 Beaver Cleaver's mom

43 Pushes roughly

44 Word attached to share or candle

46 Compel

47 Hired vehicles

48 Competent

49 Disastrous defeat

50 __ over; deliver

52 Eerie sightings, for short

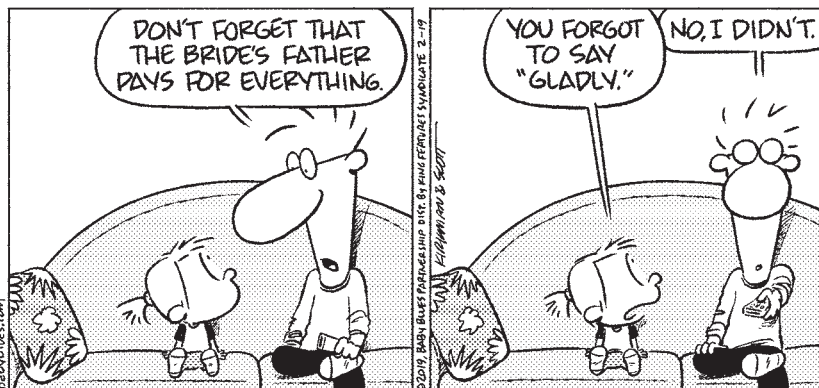
53 Tap a baseball

55 Startling word

56 "__ Father, Who art in heaven..."

57 -tac-toe

I'M GOING TO GET MARRIED IN A CASTLE WITH THOUSANDS OF GUESTS AND A CARRIAGE PULLED BY SEVEN UNICORNS.



Classifieds

Halley Time Travel

Divi Village

1 BR WK # 8 & 9
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\$9000 each
Divi links Golf
1 BR WK# 8 & 9
27 weeks remain
\$9000 each

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Ground floor \$7000 each
1 BR WK 7 & 8 \$7000 each
Dutch Village
1 BR WK 8 \$8500
24 weeks remain

For Rent

Aruba Divi Phoenix

1 BR WK # 8 \$2000
23 February 2 March 2019
Divi Links Golf
Studio WK #8 \$1500
23 February 2 March 2019

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Ponton
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1 BR Ocean View \$10,000
2 BR Ocean View \$16,000
2 BR Ocean Front \$24,000

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Divi Village
Studio
Wk 5,6,7,8 ground floor
Golf view \$8000 each

Divi Links Golf

1 BR WK 11 & 12
26 weeks remain each
\$9000 each
Studio Wk 11
26 weeks remain \$8000

Marriott Surf Club

2 BR Garden Vie w \$14,000
2 BR Ocean View \$ 15,000
2 BR Ocean Side \$16,000
2 BR Ocean Front \$ 27,000

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Studio WK # 6
22 weeks remain \$8000

Renaissance Suites

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4th Floor Harbor/Ocean View
Aruba Divi Phoenix
Studio wk # 9
building 6
5th floor \$9000
30 weeks remain

Aruba Divi Phoenix

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Wks 7 & 8/1408 (\$18,000)
Wk 8/1113 (\$17,000)
Wk 8/1409 (\$17,000)
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210601

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PLATINUM Season

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3BEDROM \$26k
*WK. 51 OV \$39k
*WK 52 OV \$46k
* Weeks 7 and 14-all views

Marriott Aruba Ocean Club

GOLD Season

2B Oceanfront \$14k
2B OV \$8000
1 Bed \$4000
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PLATINUM Season

2 Bed OV \$16000
2B Oceanfront \$24k
1B OV \$10k

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Year in space put U.S. astronaut's disease defenses on alert

By **LAURAN NEERGAARD**
and **SETH BORENSTEIN**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) —

Nearly a year in space put astronaut Scott Kelly's immune system on high alert and changed the activity of some of his genes compared to his Earth-bound identical twin, researchers said Friday.

Scientists don't know if the changes were good or bad but results from a unique NASA twins study are raising new questions for doctors as the space agency aims to send people to Mars.

Tests of the genetic doubles gave scientists a never-before opportunity to track details of human biology, such as how an astronaut's genes turn on and off in space differently than at home. One puzzling change announced Friday at a science conference: Kelly's immune system was hyperactivated.

"It's as if the body is reacting to this alien environment sort of like you would a mysterious organism being inside you," said geneticist Christopher Mason of New York's Weill Cornell Medicine, who helped lead the study. He said doctors are now looking for that in other astronauts.

Since the beginning of space exploration, NASA has studied the toll on as-



In this March 26, 2015 file photo, U.S. astronaut Scott Kelly, right, crew member of the mission to the International Space Station, stands behind glass in a quarantine room, behind his brother, Mark Kelly, also an astronaut, after a news conference in the Russian-leased Baikonur, Kazakhstan cosmodrome.

tronauts' bodies, such as bone loss that requires exercise to counter. Typically they're in space about six months at a time. Kelly, who lived on the International Space Station, spent 340 days in space and set a U.S. record.

"I've never felt completely normal in space," the now-retired Kelly said in an email to The Associated Press, citing the usual congestion from shifting fluid, headaches and difficulty concentrating from extra carbon dioxide, and diges-

tive complaints from microgravity.

But this study was a unique dive into the molecular level, with former astronaut Mark Kelly, Scott's twin, on the ground for comparison. Full results haven't yet been published, but researchers presented some findings Friday at a meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

A number of genes connected to the immune system became hyperactive, Mason said. It's not

a change in DNA but in what's called "gene expression," how genes turn off and on and increase or decrease their production of proteins. Mason also spotted a spike in the bloodstream of another marker that primes the immune system. Yet at the same time, Kelly's blood showed fewer of another cell type that's an early defense against viruses.

It's not a surprise that gene activity would change in space — it changes in response to all kinds of stress.

Associated Press

"You can see the body adapting to the change in its environment," Mason said.

The good news: Most everything returned to normal shortly after Kelly got back on Earth in March 2016. Those immune-related genes, however, "seemed to have this memory or this need to almost be on high alert" even six months later, Mason said.

"On the whole it's encouraging," said Craig Kundrot, who heads space life and science research for NASA. "There are no major new warning signs. We are seeing changes that we didn't necessarily anticipate" but don't know if those changes matter.

From four Russians living in space for more than a year, NASA already knew prolonged time off Earth is possible, Kundrot said, adding, "We also aim for more than just possible. We want our astronauts to do more than just survive."

Ultimately, the twin study gives NASA a catalog of things to monitor on future missions to see if other astronauts react the same way.

Astronauts on future missions will be able to do some of this testing in space instead of freezing samples for scientists back home, Mason said. □

First private Israel lunar mission to be launched this week

By **ILAN BEN ZION**
Associated Press

RAMAT GAN, Israel (AP) —

A nonprofit Israeli consortium said Monday that it hopes to make history this week by launching the first private aircraft to land on the moon.

Spacell and state-owned

Israel Aerospace Industries told a news conference that the landing craft — dubbed "Beresheet," or Genesis — will take off from Florida, propelled by a SpaceX Falcon rocket on its weeklong voyage to the moon.

The launch is scheduled



In this Monday, Dec. 17, 2018 file photo, technicians stand next to the Spacell lunar module, an unmanned spacecraft, is on display in a special "clean room" where the space craft is being developed, during a press tour of their facility near Tel Aviv, Israel.

Associated Press

late Thursday in the United States, early Friday in Israel. It had been originally slat-

ed for last December. Spacell CEO Ido Anteby and Opher Doron, general

manager of the IAI's space division, said the spacecraft will slingshot around the Earth at least six times in order to reach the moon and land on its surface on April 11.

If the Spacell mission is successful, Israel will become the fourth country to land a spacecraft on the moon, after the Soviet Union, United States and China. Spacell has attempted to drum up public excitement for the lunar mission in Israel in recent months, visiting classrooms around the country and sponsoring television advertisements that put Israel on par with global powers. □

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In France, the Force is strong with lightsaber dueling

By JOHN LEICESTER

Associated Press

BEAUMONT-SUR-OISE, France (AP) — Master Yoda, dust off his French, he must.

It's now easier than ever in France to act out "Star Wars" fantasies, because its fencing federation has borrowed from a galaxy far, far away and officially recognized lightsaber dueling as a competitive sport, granting the iconic weapon from George Lucas' saga the same status as the foil, epee and sabre, the traditional blades used at the Olympics.

Of course, the LED-lit, rigid polycarbonate lightsaber replicas can't slice a Sith lord in half. But they look and, with the more expensive sabers equipped with a chip in their hilt that emits a throaty electric rumble, even sound remarkably like the silver screen blades that Yoda and other characters wield in the blockbuster movies.

Plenty realistic, at least, for duelists to work up an impressive sweat slashing, feinting and stabbing in organized, 3-minute bouts. The physicality of lightsaber combat is part of why the French Fencing Federation threw its support behind the sport and is now equipping fencing clubs with lightsabers and training would-be lightsaber instructors. Like virtuous Jedi knights, the French federation sees itself as combatting a Dark Side: The sedentary habits of 21st-century life that are sickening ever-growing numbers of adults and kids. "With young people today, it's a real public health issue. They don't do any sport and only exercise with their thumbs," says Serge Aubailly, the federation secretary general. "It's becoming difficult to (persuade them to) do a sport that has no connection with getting out of the sofa and playing with one's thumbs. That is why we are trying to create a bond between our discipline and modern technologies, so participating in a sport feels natural."

In the past, the likes of Zorro, Robin Hood and The



In this Sunday, Feb. 10, 2019, photo, competitors battle during a national lightsaber tournament in Beaumont-sur-Oise, north of Paris.

Three Musketeers helped lure new practitioners to fencing. Now, joining and even supplanting them are Luke Skywalker, Obi-Wan Kenobi and Darth Vader. "Cape and sword movies have always had a big impact on our federation and its growth," Aubailly says. "Lightsaber films have the same impact. Young people want to give it a try." And the young at heart. Police officer Philippe Bondi, 49, practiced fencing for 20 years before switching to lightsaber. When a club started offering classes in Metz, the town in eastern France where he is

stationed for the gendarmerie, Bondi says he was immediately drawn by the prospect of living out the love he's had for the Star Wars universe since he saw the first film at age 7, on its release in 1977. He fights in the same wire-mesh face mask he used for fencing. He spent about 350 euros (\$400) on his protective body armor (sturdy gloves, chest, shoulder and shin pads) and on his federation-approved lightsaber, opting for luminous green "because it's the Jedi colors, and Yoda is my master."

"I had to be on the good

side, given that my job is upholding the law," he said.

Bondi awoke well before dawn to make the four-hour drive from Metz to a national lightsaber tournament outside Paris this month that drew 34 competitors. It showcased how far the sport has come in a couple of years but also that it's still light years from becoming mainstream.

The crowd was small and a technical glitch prevented the duelers' photos, combat names and scores from being displayed on a big screen, making bouts tough to follow. But the il-

luminated swooshes of colored blades looked spectacular in the darkened hall. Fan cosplay as Star Wars characters added levity, authenticity and a tinkle of bizarre to the proceedings, especially the incongruous sight of Darth Vader buying a ham sandwich and a bag of potato chips at the cafeteria during a break.

"We wanted it to be safe, we wanted it to be umpired and, most of all, we wanted it to produce something visual that looks like the movies, because that is what people expect," said Michel Ortiz, the tournament organizer.

Combatants fight inside a circle marked in tape on the floor. Strikes to the head or body are worth 5 points; to the arms or legs, 3 points; on hands, 1 point. The first to 15 points wins or, if they don't get there quickly, the high scorer after 3 minutes. If both fighters reach 10 points, the bout enters "sudden death," where the first to land a head- or body-blow wins, a rule to encourage enterprising fighters.

Blows only count if the fighters first point the tip of their saber behind them. That rule prevents the viper-like, tip-first quick forward strikes seen in fencing. Instead, the rule encourages swishier blows that are easier for audiences to see and enjoy, and which are more evocative of the duels in Star Wars. Of those, the battle between Obi-Wan and Darth Maul in "The Phantom Menace" that ends badly for the Sith despite his double-bladed lightsaber is particularly appreciated by aficionados for its swordplay.

Still nascent, counting its paid-up practitioners in France in the hundreds, not thousands, lightsaber dueling has no hope of a place in the Paris Olympics in 2024. But to hear the thwack of blades and see them cut shapes through the air is to want to give the sport a try.

Or, as Yoda would say: "Try not. Do! Or do not. There is no try." □



In this Sunday, Feb. 10, 2019, photo, a policeman plays with a fake gun during a national lightsaber tournament in Beaumont-sur-Oise, north of Paris.

Associated Press

In 'Fighting With My Family,' WWE dreams turn real

By JAKE COYLE
Associated Press

Even the most eccentric passions of working-class England — long a favored reservoir of feel-good underdog tales — have seldom featured as much spandex as "Fighting With My Family." Patrick "Rowdy Ricky Knight" Bevis (Nick Frost) and Julia "Sweet Saraya" Bevis (Lena Headey) are your average parents, raising a couple of tykes in Norwich, England, to stand up for themselves, work together, and, you know, maintain a firm choke hold. Collectively they worship at the altar of "Macho Man" Randy Savage; they believe in body slams the way other families preach a heathy breakfast.

"Fighting With My Family," the solo writing-directing debut of Stephen Merchant ("The Office"), is based on a true story and a colorful documentary. Saraya-Jade (Florence Pugh) and her older brother, Zak (Jack Lowden), have been bred by their WWE-obsessed parents to leg-drop and pile-drive. They



This image released by Metro Goldwyn Mayer Pictures shows Jack Lowden, left, and Florence Pugh in a scene from "Fighting with My Family."

each aspire to the big time while ardently participating in their family's far more regional and ragtag wrestling business. In a sport/entertainment full of skeptics, they're true believers. The twist in "Fighting With My Family" is not only that Saraya-Jade actually succeeds, winning a tryout

with the WWE in Florida, but that this modest and formulaic sports movie takes on unexpected heavyweight status. "Fighting With My Family" was made with the blessing and the branding of the WWE, and it includes plenty of pro wrestler cameos, most notably The Rock, who's a producer on the film. It's a little like if Barry Bonds turned up in

"The Sandlot." Yet "Fighting With My Family" isn't just about the quixotic small-town dreams of some hard-scrabble devotees, but the leap into megawatt fame, and the strain it can put on family dynamics. When a wisecracking trainer named Hutch (Vince Vaughn, eating it up) at a London tryout picks Saraya-Jade, who renames

herself Paige, Zak is told he doesn't have the "it" factor his sister exudes. But Paige, dark-haired, lip-pierced and heavily accented, isn't so sure of herself, either. "Do you see yourself as a six-inch action figure?" asks Hutch, a question that might be better served for mental institution examinations. It's a compelling and likable cast (Frost, in particular, is a standout), and Merchant keeps the film, for all its sports-movie clichés, mostly lively, good-hearted and consistently funny. That's aided in part by the charm explosions that happen whenever The Rock steps in (he even manages a crack at Vin Diesel). But the movie is mostly on Pugh's shoulders. The young actresses broke through, terrifically, in 2017's "Lady Macbeth," which, ironically, was a far more rock-'em-sock-'em showcase for her considerable talent. Pugh never looks quite at ease in the ring in "Fighting With My Family," but her performance is so layered with ambition and self-doubt that the film exceeds its familiar framework. □

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Tedeschi Trucks Band's 'Signs' is inspirational

By PABLO GORONDI
Associated Press

Tedeschi Trucks Band, "Signs" (Fantasy Records/Concord) You can't avoid being mesmerized by Susan Tedeschi's singing on "Signs." The Tedeschi Trucks Band has a dozen members, including three other vocalists, a pair of drummers, a horn section, keyboards, bass and guitarist Derek Trucks — Tedeschi's husband — and their fourth studio album makes full and flavorful use of the whole talented lineup. Nonetheless, even as the band again sounds fantastic, Tedeschi's vocals keep finding ever deeper shades of feeling and meaning on this varied collection of blues-inflected soul and rock tunes — all written by different combinations of band members, some with guests like Warren Haynes

or Doyle Bramhall II. She soars on "Still Your Mind," giving the already glass-half-full lyrics — "Don't the darkness of the world enter your soul/You know the light of your smile is what make me whole" — additional power and emotion. The song's extended instrumental coda is steaming hot, but you keep hoping she'll return for another verse or two before it's over. It begs for a cover by Pearl Jam. "Signs, High Times" launches the album with room for solo lines from the band's other singers — Mike Mattison, Alecia Chakour and Mark Rivers — and a can-do/must-do attitude of getting your act together in challenging times. It's a logical start, taking into account that keyboardist/flutist Kofi Burbridge was hospitalized



This cover image released by Fantasy Records/Concord shows "Signs" the latest release by Tedeschi Trucks Band.

Associated Press

after a heart attack and some of the group's closest friends and relatives — Hampton, Butch Trucks and Gregg Allman — passed away just as work was due to start album. Expressions of hope, renewal, affection and commitment abound, making "Signs" an inspirational album for the times. □

Nadav Lapid's 'Synonyms' wins top prize at Berlin Film Fest

By GEIR MOULSON

Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — Israeli director Nadav Lapid's "Synonyms," a movie about a young Israeli man who uproots himself to France and is determined to put his homeland behind him, won the Berlin International Film Festival's top Golden Bear award on Saturday.

A jury headed by French actress Juliette Binoche chose the movie from a field of 16 competing at the first of the year's major European film festivals. Set in Paris, it stars Tom Mercier in the role of Yoav, who refuses to speak Hebrew and is accompanied by an ever-present French dictionary as he tries to put down roots and create a new identity for himself.

Lapid said as he accepted the award that some in Israel might be "scandalized" by the movie "but for me, the film is also a big celebration — a celebration, I hope, also of cinema."

"I hope that people will understand that fury and



Director Nadav Lapid holds aloft the golden bear for best film for 'Synonyms' onstage at the award ceremony of the 2019 Berlinale Film Festival in Berlin, Germany, Saturday, Feb. 16, 2019.

Associated Press

rage and hostility and hate ... are only the twin brothers and sisters of strong attachment and powerful emotions," he said.

The festival's best actor and best actress awards went to Wang Jingchun and Yong Mei, respective-

ly, for their roles as a couple who lose their son in director Wang Xiaoshuai's "So Long, My Son." The three-hour Chinese family saga spans three decades of history from the 1980s to the present, portraying a society in constant change.

The best director honors went to Germany's Angela Schanelec for her family drama "I Was at Home, But."

The festival's jury grand prize award was won by French director Francois Ozon's "By the Grace of

God," a movie about the long-term effects of sexual abuse in the Catholic church.

Italian anti-Mafia journalist Roberto Saviano, along with Maurizio Braucci and Claudio Giovannesi, took the best script award for "Piranhas," a film following teenagers growing up in a dangerous world of crime in Naples. Saviano said writing the screenplay was meant to "show resistance," and added that "speaking the truth in our country has become very complex."

This year's competition originally comprised 17 films, but famed Chinese director Zhang Yimou's "One Second," set amid the chaos and violence of the country's 1966-76 Cultural Revolution, was withdrawn after festival started. A festival statement on Monday said it wasn't possible to present it "due to technical difficulties encountered during post-production." It did not elaborate. □

Zimbabwe and world music star Oliver Mtukudzi dies at 66

By FARAI MUTSAKA

ANDREW MELDRUM

Associated Press

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP)

— One of Zimbabwe and Africa's most iconic musicians, Oliver Mtukudzi, died on Wednesday at age 66 after decades of rollicking, captivating performances won him devoted fans worldwide.

"It is difficult to accept, I have no words," said musician and poet Albert Nyathi, who joined several other mourners at the hospital in the capital, Harare, where the star passed away. "What is left is to celebrate his life."

Zimbabwe's state-run Herald newspaper reported that Mtukudzi had "succumbed to a long battle with diabetes."

With his distinctive husky voice, Mtukudzi had a career that stretched from white minority-ruled Rhodesia to majority-ruled Zimbabwe, producing a string



In this Sunday, Nov. 6, 2011 file photo, Zimbabwean music superstar and U.N. goodwill ambassador Oliver Mtukudzi, center, performs at a music festival held in Karen on the outskirts of Nairobi, Kenya.

Associated Press

of hits that spread his fame across Africa and eventually to an international audience.

Tuku, as he was widely known, avoided political controversy. The closest he came was with his 2001 song "Bvuma," which in the Shona language means "accept that you are old" and was taken as a mes-

sage to longtime leader Robert Mugabe to retire.

Paul Mangwana, a senior official with Zimbabwe's ruling ZANU-PF party, praised Mtukudzi for remaining "apolitical," saying he supported calls for the singer to be buried at the national heroes' acre, a shrine that is a preserve of ruling party elites.

"He was a nation-builder. Where it was necessary to criticize he would, and where it was necessary to praise he would," Mangwana said at the hospital.

In a country where political tensions are high and party loyalties matter, Mtukudzi cut across the divide, singing at ruling party events but also performing at late opposition leader Morgan Tsvangirai's wedding and funeral.

One of Mtukudzi's biggest hits was "Neria," a mournful song about the tribulations of a woman who was thrown into poverty when her husband died because customary law did not allow her to inherit his property. It was the title song of a movie of the same name. In 1980, Mtukudzi celebrated Zimbabwe's independence by singing the country's new national anthem, "Ishe Komborera Africa" (God Bless Africa) with a reggae inflection.

He sang, played guitar and danced while directing a tight band of guitarists, keyboards, percussionists and dancers. He released more than 60 albums and made several successful international tours, performing in neighboring South Africa late last year.

He also was known for mentoring young Zimbabwean musicians. "He was like a father figure," said MacDonald Chidavaenzi, a songwriter and producer. Mtukudzi's company in a statement called him a "national icon" as well as "a father, brother, grandfather, uncle, and above all a husband to his loving wife Daisy Mtukudzi."

Mtukudzi wrote songs in a style that were a mix of Zimbabwean and South African rhythms that became known as "Tuku music."

The ruling African National Congress in South Africa tweeted simply "Rest in peace." □

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